GMA orders 118 Filipinos to leave Iraq now

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, September 12, 2002 ★ 54 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 276 P15

Bush marks 'day of tears,' defiant

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush stood outside a reconstructed Pentagon Wednesday, leading a transformed United States as it paused to remember the shattering terrorist attacks of one year ago.

"The terrible illumination of these events has . . . brought new clarity to

BUSH/A18

HAND in hand, President and Mrs. Bush lead the White House staff in a moment of silence in Washington, DC. Bush was due to visit each of the three sites where hijacked planes crashed to mark the 1st anniversary of 9/11. AFP

Silence falls on New York

City that doesn't sleep stops at 8:46 a.m.

NEW YORK—Two skyscrapers were draped in black cloth, and one bore a two-story high US flag in the shape of a heart with the words:

"The human spirit is not measured by the size of the act, but by the size of the heart."

Silence fell on the most vibrant city on earth Wednesday morning, precisely a year from the moment when a terrorist-guided jetliner sliced through a crystal blue sky and murdered thousands.

Quiet spread across New York—a city still in mourning a year after the obliteration of its tallest buildings, the World Trade Center Twin Towers—to the South Lawn of the White House to other observances across the nation and around the world.

President George W. Bush, who was scheduled to do the rounds of the three disaster sites, was to arrive in Ground Zero in the afternoon.

Gov. George Pataki followed with a reading of President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Gettysburg Address after the Civil War battle. And then

NY/A18

'CODE ORANGE'

Dick Cheney taken to secret location

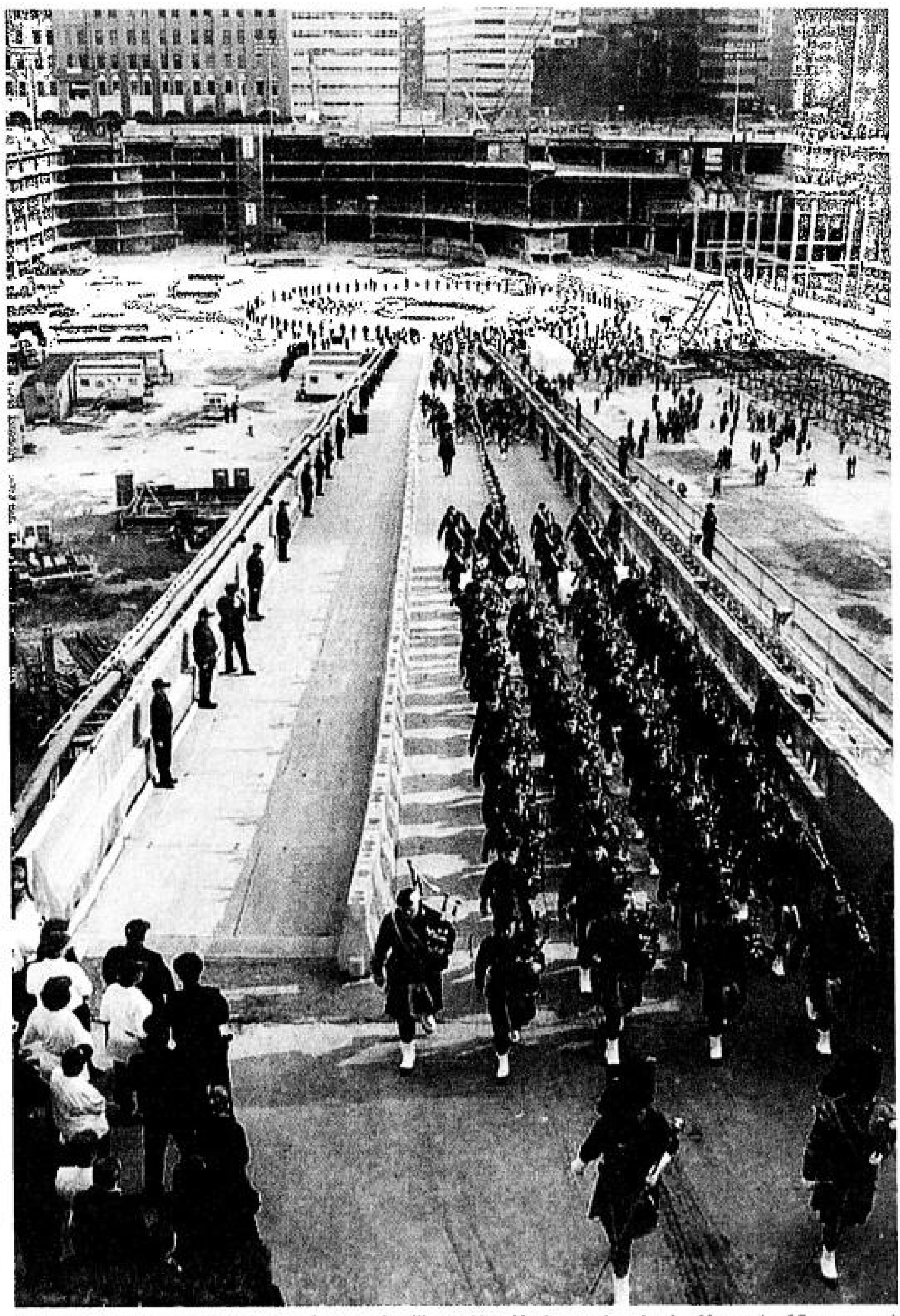
WASHINGTON—The United States government raised the terror alert to its second highest level, based on new intelligence warning of possible strikes on the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Vice President Dick Cheney canceled a Tuesday night speech and was taken to a secret location to protect the presidential line of succession in case of an attack.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ordered live anti-aircraft missiles to be stationed near launchers that had been deployed around Washington for a training exercise.

The world also went on terror

DICK/A18



THE POIGNANT sound of bagpipes became familiar to New Yorkers at hundreds of funerals of firemen and policemen. A procession of bagpipers and drummers played at the memorial rites at Ground Zero. AFP

RP nurse recognized as Ground Zero hero

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Filipino nurse did her country proud after she was handpicked to be one of the readers of the names of the 3,025 victims of the World Trade Center bombings during moving memorial rites at Ground Zero yesterday morning in New York City.

It was not the first time that Rebecca Canalija, 42, had been singled out for her work as an emergency nurse. She stayed at the disaster site for days on end taking care of burn victims and broken bones.

As a certified Ground Zero hero, she was the recipient of a "Frontline Heroes Recognition Award" last year. Her photograph appeared in a special edi-

RP/A5

'Walk 911-Give a Life' to sick kids

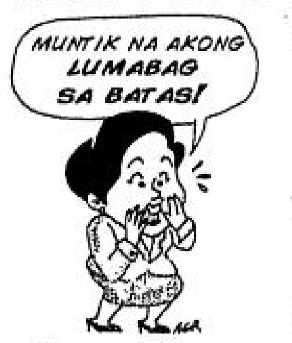
By Armand N. Nocum and Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S TIME to turn grief into something positive.

An American pastor issued this call to his fellow Americans as he embarked on a 1,000-mile walk across Luzon on the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"It's time to remove the heavi-

WALK911/A5


MUNTIK NA AKONG LUMABAG SA BATAS!
AA

President almost breaks law

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE TOP woman a lawbreaker? Well, almost.

President Macapagal-Arroyo came close to trespassing yesterday morning on a private

PRESIDENT/A17

US warns RP of truck bomb attack

BEWARE of al-Qaida truck bomb attacks in Manila.

The United States has told the Philippines that al-Qaida was plotting to bomb US embassies with trucks and that such an attack could occur on or after Sept. 11, Malacañang said yesterday.

Malacañang announced the warning on the day Cable News Network (CNN) insisted that its report on Sept. 9 of an al-Qaida plot to bomb US and Israeli embassies in Manila was not rehashed, but new information.

"CNN stands by its report," Carol Turner, spokesperson for CNN PR Asia Pacific, said in a statement.

CNN issued the statement af-

CNN/A5

IS WAR IMMINENT?

Leave Iraq now, 118 Filipinos told

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Armand N. Nocum and Norman Bordadora

AS though to indicate an imminent US attack on Iraq, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the immediate evacuation of all 118 Filipinos living in that country.

She also appointed Roy Cimatu, the newly retired Armed Forces chief of staff, as Middle East crisis manager in the event of another US-Iraq war. Ms Macapagal said Cimatu would not only be in charge of the evacuation but would also oversee "all the consequences resulting from a possible US attack," such as the impact on the Philippines' oil supply.

"We want to do (the evacuation) very quickly (because) when you have to negotiate for assistance from others, there's red tape involved," the President said, referring to the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration which had helped in previous evacuations.

Asked if the US government was going to attack Iraq soon, she replied: "It's better to be over-prepared than be caught flat-footed."

On the heels of Ms

LEAVE/A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/12/02

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Roxas	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

Sandigan chief gets SC ultimatum

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court threatened yesterday to impose "more severe disciplinary sanctions" against relieved Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena if he failed to dispose off his backlog of cases by the end of the month.

In a six-page resolution passed by the full court, the high tribunal delivered the ultimatum as it junked Garchitorena's plea to extend the deadline.

Foot operation

Garchitorena had presented as reasons for his failure to dispose of his cases the operations on his foot, his continuing indisposition, "as well as the rains in July, which resulted in the periodic absences of some of (my) staff who were flooded out."

But the SC decided yesterday that "the resolution of Aug. 13, 2002 giving a non-extendible period of up to Sept. 30 is maintained." The resolution was signed by Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno.

Garchitorena was also ordered to submit within five days duly authenticated medical certificates attesting to his foot operations in January and July 2002.

The SC also directed the Sandiganbayan to look into discrepancies between the dates Garchitorena had promulgated his decisions compared to an audit conducted by the Office of the Court Administrator.

Garchitorena admitted he had yet to decide 37 priority cases. The number tallied with the OCA report, except for the dates the cases were submitted for resolution.

Exasperated

On Aug. 13, an exasperated Supreme Court had ordered Garchitorena to decide all the unresolved cases submitted to him for decision "with a stern warning that proper disciplinary action would be taken against him if he failed to do so."

The Sept. 30 deadline, the high court said, was "non-extendible."

At that time, the high court also ordered Garchitorena to explain why no disciplinary action should be taken against him for failing to submit the list of cases that were pending before him.

No copies of decisions

He was also asked to explain why the resolutions and decisions enumerated in his compliance report were not promulgated immediately, and why he resolved three cases ahead of unresolved ones that had been waiting for decisions as far back as 1990.

The SC said Garchitorena also failed to submit copies of the decisions he promulgated.

On Nov. 28, 2001, the SC relieved Garchitorena of his duties as Sandiganbayan presiding justice and chair of the First Division to give him time to write decisions.

The 'court gave Garchitorena six months to decide 43 pending cases.

GARCHITORENA: Non-extendible Sept. 30 deadline

Marcos intel officer is new Air Force chief

By Carlito Pablo

A CAREER military man who served as an intelligence officer during the Marcos regime is the new Philippine Air Force chief.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday the appointment of Maj. Gen. Nestor Santillan as new PAF commander replacing Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr., who was named chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Santillan was PAF vice commander under Defensor.

Ms Macapagal said that as with Defensor, she gave a premium to seniority when she named Santillan to head the PAF.

"Because he's the most senior," the President said. Santillan is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '70. He will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 in May 2004.

Santillan will assume command today at rites at Villamor Airbase in Pasay City.

Silent achiever

In a press release, the Air Force described Santillan as a "silent achiever."

Prior to being PAF vice commander, Santillan had headed the Tactical Operations Command in Lapu-lapu City, which played a big role in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

Santillan was an engineering student at the University of the Philippines when he decided to enter the PMA in 1966. After graduation in 1970, he went on to flight training at the Air Force Flying School.

He holds a masters degree in defense studies from the University of South Wales in Australia.

After graduation, he was a PAF pilot until 1976, when he went on to serve in the National Intelligence and Security Agency, rising from branch manager of its information system to operations officer in 1980.

In 1981, he became deputy chief of staff for operations of the Presidential Security Command.

Before the fall of Ferdinand Marcos, Santillan was head of the First Security Battalion of the PSG.

After Marcos' ouster, he was transferred to MIG-23, a unit of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

In 1987, he went back to the Air Force where he served in various capacities, including intelligence.

Reyes flies off to KL today to ease RP-Malaysia tension

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes will visit Malaysia today in a bid to diffuse bilateral tensions following accusations Kuala Lumpur ill-treated Filipinos being expelled from Sabah.

Reyes, who will be accompanied by aides of President Macapagal-Arroyo and military officers, is the highest ranking official to visit Malaysia since the expulsion issue blew up last month. The Philippines has sent two protest notes to Kuala Lumpur complaining that some of the thousands of expelled Filipinos had been abused and ill-treated at holding centers in Sabah.

Ms Macapagal also complained in a letter to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad that a migrant girl had been raped, reportedly by a Malaysian policeman at a detention center.

Mahathir pledged swift action on the case and ordered a moratorium on the deportations.

Reyes will hold talks with his counterpart, Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Tun Razak and other officials during the visit.

"While his visit is to reciprocate Najib's visit here last year, it is part of confidence building measures to ensure that bilateral relations are not affected adversely by the deportation issue," a source told AFP.

REYES

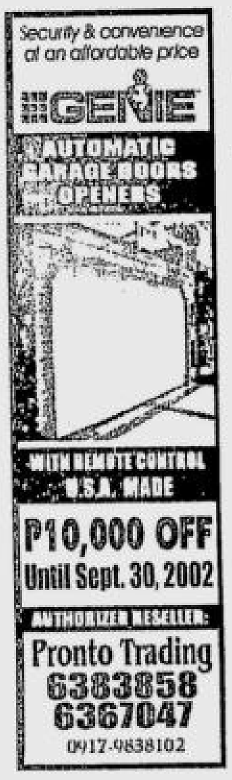
Among issues expected to be discussed are concerns that suspected terrorists could be among Filipinos fleeing the porous maritime border with Malaysia, the sources said.

Malaysian ambassador to Manila Taufik Mohamed Noor had said this week that persistent attacks by Filipino lawmakers and politicians on Kuala Lumpur's alleged ill-treatment of Filipino deportees had strained ties.

Protest notes

Taufik said yesterday that Malaysia had already acted on Manila's diplomatic protest notes, including setting up a task force to investigate claims that a Filipino girl was raped in a detention center.

"We have replied officially to one of the diplomatic notes and will respond to the other soon. In fact, we have done all we possibly can to resolve the issue," he said. *AFP*



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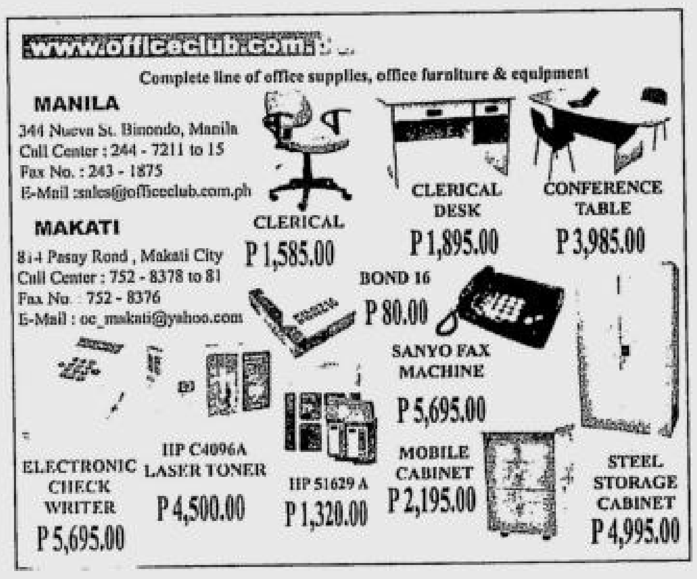

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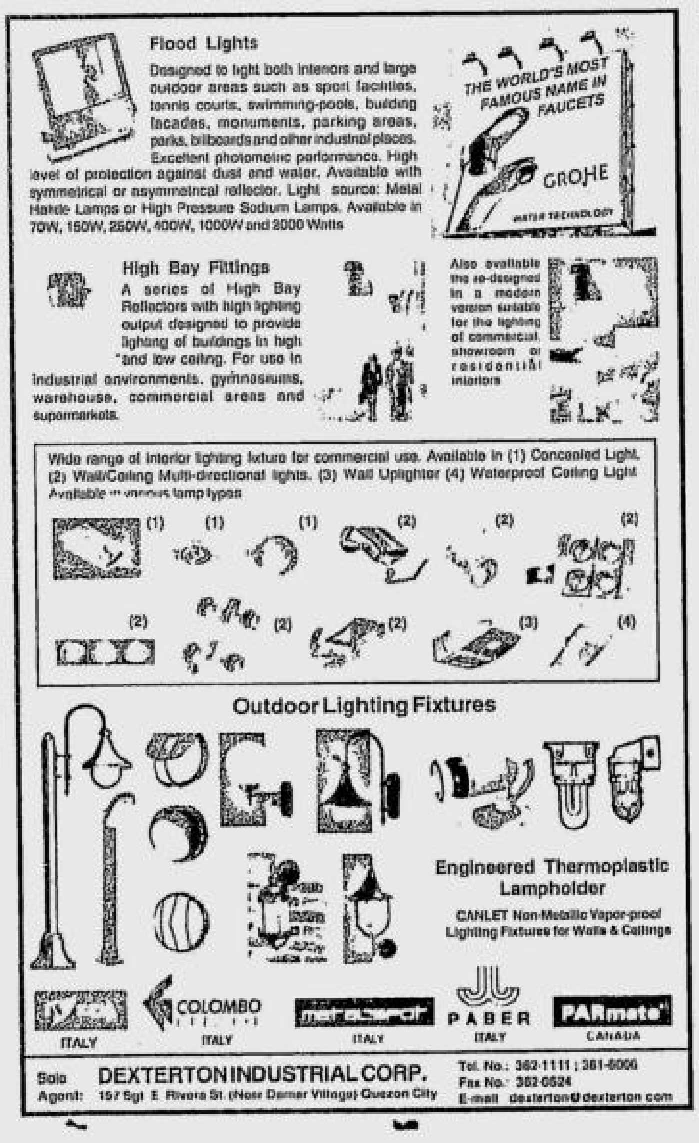

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No Gloria, no Erap in 11th anniversary of Senate bases vote

By Juliet L. Javellana

PROTOCOL would have dictated her presence but organizers of the 11th anniversary commemoration of the Senate's rejection of the US bases treaty decided not to invite President Macapagal-Arroyo in deference to her staunch support for the United States.

Ironically, it is the Liberal Party, of which the President is honorary chair, that will take the lead in commemorating the historic Senate vote of Sept. 16, 1991, which ended a century of American military presence in the country.

The "Magnificent 12"—senators led by Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and then Senate president Jovito Salonga—will be honored with a monument to be unveiled on Monday in front of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority office at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, the former US military base in Zambales.

Guingona and Salonga will deliver speeches in the program to be hosted by SBMA chair Felicito "Tong" Payumo.

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, LP president, who organized the first anniversary commemoration, said this year's gathering was not meant to be anti-American.

He said the LP decided not to invite Ms Macapagal because the "expected mood" is one that would be critical of the US military presence in the country.

He said the President would be put in a "difficult situation" because of her "vigorous support" for the US and its campaign against international terrorism.

"We don't want to do that to her," Abad said.

Some of those to be honored are also not on good terms with the President.

Chief among them is Guingona, who recently quit as concurrent foreign affairs secretary after policy differences with Ms Macapagal.

The other members of the "Magnificent 12" were Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (now Senate minority leader), Agapito "Butz" Aquino (now representative of Makati); Sotero Laurel, Wigberto Tañada; Ernesto Maceda, Juan Ponce Enrile, Rene Saguisag, Orlando Mercado, Victor Ziga and Joseph Estrada.

No Erap either

Estrada, former President who was ousted in January 2001 and is in detention facing plunder charges, was not invited for obvious reasons.

So far, only Salonga, Guingona, Aquino, Ziga and Laurel have confirmed their attendance at the rites, Abad said.

He said Tañada can't make it because he will be attending militant group Bayan Muna's own commemoration of the anniversary in Manila.

He said Enrile begged off due to a "prior engagement," while Pimentel was abroad. He did not know if Maceda, Saguisag and Mercado would show up.

Gird for El Niño, local execs told

Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture yesterday called on local government officials to rush preparations for the expected occurrence of the El Niño before the end of the month.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said weather experts had warned that the certain portions of the country may start to feel the El Niño in the second half of the month because of below normal rainfall.

The climatology branch of Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration had earlier forecast a "tendency of an early termination of the monsoon rains" in the second half the month.

Montemayor said the preparation being made by the national agencies should be complemented by local governments of affected areas.

"We are coordinating with local officials especially with the governors and mayors so they will prepare at their level," Montemayor said.

Among the measures being undertaken by the department are the construction and repair of the country's irrigation system, national and communal irrigation projects, and cloud-seeding operations on areas were the rains are not felt.

For this year, an additional P400 million budget was allocated for the National Irrigation Administration for its regular irrigation projects.

The department and the Philippine Air Force have been conducting cloud-seeding operations over the Magat Dam area for the past two months and lately, over the Pantabangan Dam.

"During El Niño times, water is so precious that we cannot afford to waste even a single drop. We should conserve and maximize its use," Montemayor said.

The Pagasa said that a mild episode of the El Niño phenomenon could be expected to last until June 2003.

Montemayor said the DA is still assessing the impact of the El Niño. Montemayor noted that when the lean months of October and November end, they may have a full picture of the coming harvest.

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Spillway of abandoned mine collapses

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—The spillway of an abandoned mine here collapsed Wednesday, flooding low-lying villages with mine wastes and other chemicals.

At least 250 families in Barangays Buhawen, Sta. Fe and Poblacion were evacuated to safer grounds shortly after the spillway burst at 1 p.m. at the height of a strong downpour.

No one was reported hurt but town and provincial officials, led by Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, feared that mine wastes that leaked from the spillway might endanger lives of villagers.

In an earlier interview, Jaime Tongol, chief of the Dizon Copper and Silver Mines Inc. (DCSMI) maintenance team, said the mine wastes and water spilling from the firm's Bayarong tailings dam and the Camalca silt dam were not laden with mercury.

He said Bayarong, DCSMI's main dam, confines the mine tailings and serves as a reservoir of recycled water for the milling process.

Located east of Barangay Buhawen here, the Bayarong dam is naturally enclosed by the hills of Mt. Bayarong. The dike's southwest side is made up of silt and clay extracted from the open pit Kaline mine. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Sale of printing office a strategic move—Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is looking at the proposed abolition of the National Printing Office (NPO) and 13 other government agencies from a "strategic" point of view.

"The strategic thing there is that the World Bank has funding for a generous early retirement, which will not be charged to the budget deficit," President Macapagal said over lunch with Malacañang reporters.

Opposition

The move to abolish the NPO, an agency under the Office of the Press Secretary, has met opposition in light of suspicions that it has something to do with the 2004 elections.

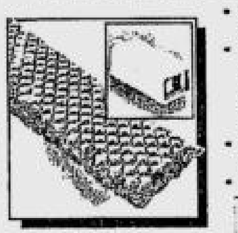
Critics pointed out that the NPO prints election paraphernalia like ballots and its abolition will pave the way for the printing of such materials by a private firm controlled by Ms Macapagal's group.

The same critics charged that Presidential adviser on media affairs Dante Ang is planning to either buy the facilities of the NPO or have the printing of election materials done by another printing company.

Bunye's beef

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye earlier said that he would appeal the abolition of the NPO before Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who had previously identified 13 other government agencies to be closed down.

Addressing Bunye who was present during lunch, President Macapagal said: "That's a matter for you and the committee of Emy to thresh out."



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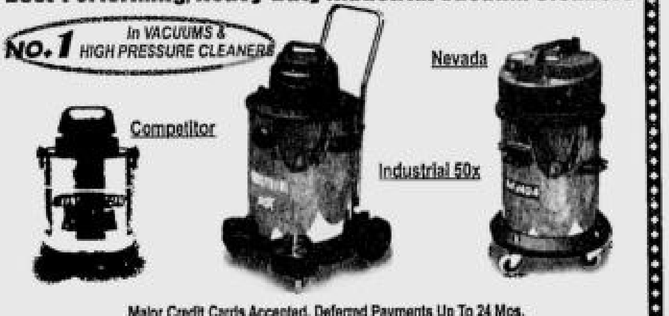

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German firm, locals fighting over figures

JOKER ARROYO at blue ribbon committee hearing

By Rocky Nazareno

THE GERMAN technical partner in the new Naia Terminal 3 project, Fraport AG, started to have a falling-out with its local partners after the latter "did not want to provide us (with the real) figures (of the project)."

"Basically, I considered this a violation of the shareholders agreement," said Peter Henkel, Philippine representative of Fraport who appeared at the Senate investigation into the controversial project for the first time yesterday.

Fraport owns 30 percent of Philippine Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), which is building the project. The local Cheng family owns 60 percent, while 10 percent belongs to other investors.

Henkel said the German firm was "very much worried" about the $138.5-million bridge loans it had guaranteed on behalf of Piatco."

"It took much too long to take bridge financing (into the project). We had no confidence that we could negotiate another bridge loan," Henkel said.

As such, Henkel confirmed that Fraport had to write off $60 million of its investments in Piatco as bad loans last December.

Fraport has since said it would accept at least $300 million to be bought out of the project. Estimated total project cost ranged from $350 million to $650 million, depending on whom one talked to.

Also at yesterday's Senate blue ribbon committee hearing, Manila International Airport Authority project engineer Florencio Montalbo told the members there were "serious doubts" Naia 3 would be finished by Nov. 26, its target date of completion.

It was unlikely it would be finished by Dec. 15 either, the day Piatco "could call the Philippine government in default," Montalbo said.

"We have doubts Piatco could still work out a crash program," Montalbo told the committee.

According to him, Piatco was "lagging behind in its provisions for concessionaires and offices as well as in its training of ground personnel."

He said Piatco still had to provide the MIAA with "a list of staffers who were supposed to be trained in manning the new systems and equipment and on the operations of the terminal."

"We also have to make sure there will be retail outlets open and other amenities for our passengers," Montalbo said.

Montalbo also pointed out that construction of the 2.7-kilometer road that would link Naia 3 with Naia 2 had yet to start.

"Under normal circumstances, construction would take six to eight months. But if Piatco rushes things, they might still be able to finish it," said Montalbo of the P120-million road that would traverse the former Nayong Pilipino complex.

Under the contract, Piatco could be declared in default by Dec. 15 if it did not submit a certificate of completion on the project by that date.

But under the same contract, the government had an obligation to "direct all international flights to Naia 3 when it is finally made operational."

It also has the obligation to transfer customs, immigration and security personnel from Naia 1 to Naia 3.

The government stands to pay $50,000 in fines every day should it fail to comply with these provisions.

Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino said "it can be done."

"We just don't want to be disrupted in our work," Tolentino said.

He said that Piatco's compliance with the requirements of the project would hinge on the certificate of completion to be issued by an independent quality assurance inspector (QAI).

For the Naia 3 project, both Piatco and the government are sharing the cost of tapping Japan Air Consultancy Inc. as the QAI.

HENKEL of Fraport Philippines JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

GLORIA TAN CLIMACO

Gloria intrigued by mystery PR man

By Carlito Pablo

NOW EVEN President Macapagal-Arroyo is intrigued by the mysterious Alfonso Liongson.

Alleged to be the dummy of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and Presidential Consultant on Media Affairs Dante Ang in receiving payoffs from the Naia Terminal 3 project, Liongson has disappeared and is believed to be hiding in the United States.

"I am also curious about who Liongson is," President Macapagal said over lunch with Malacañang reporters.

'Very malicious'

The President, however, said suggestions of Liongson's links to her husband were "very malicious."

Ms Macapagal said both she and her husband didn't know Liongson, the supposed highly paid consultant of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), builder of the Naia terminal 3 project.

Ms Macapagal said she also wanted to hear from former senator Juan Ponce Enrile about Liongson's supposed link to Arroyo and Ang.

Ang said he didn't know Liongson, as he took exception to Enrile's suggestion he was hiding the missing Piatco consultant.

Ang yesterday issued a strongly worded statement against Enrile, saying "his (Enrile's) history of falsehoods and prevarication disqualifies him from passing judgment on law-abiding citizens and commenting on serious public issues."

Ang said it was Enrile who "conned the Filipino people by faking an assassination attempt on his life in 1972, a lie that Ferdinand Marcos used as one of the bases for the declaration of martial law."

"If the man who has accused me is the same person involved in this sordid event, then I say I have neither the time nor the patience to engage him further on this issue," Ang said.

Over lunch, President Macapagal told reporters she had precisely ordered Climaco to review the Piatco contract because of alleged anomalies involved in the project.

"To begin with, if my husband was involved and lobbying me, why would I ask Climaco to audit the contract?" Ms Macapagal said. "Didn't that (review of the contract) start with me to begin with?"

Piatco bought used equipment for Terminal 3, Climaco claims

By Raul C. Dancel and Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) has acquired "reconditioned" equipment that could compromise the safety of passengers using the new Naia terminal 3, Presidential Adviser on Strategic Projects Gloria Tan-Climaco has claimed.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Tuesday, Climaco said Piatco was supposed to buy three "switches" needed to control the terminal's computers and electronic devices from German telecommunications firm Siemens AG.

But Piatco allegedly scuttled the transaction and acquired instead "reconditioned" switches from a Japanese firm, Fuji Haya.

Climaco said that in using reconditioned switches, Piatco was compromising the safety of air travelers since these devices control key areas of the terminal, including its computer and communications networks and electrical systems. "They are willing to compromise the safety of the airport. The switches were delivered early this year," she said.

Apart from compromising safety, Climaco said, the acquisition of the switches was questionable. "(The switches) were bought at inflated prices," she charged.

She said the Siemens switches, brand new, would have cost about $300,000 each, while the reconditioned Japanese switches were bought at $900,000 each.

Reacting to these charges, Piatco said it had no knowledge of the purchase of second-hand airport switches from a Japanese firm.

Piatco vice president and spokesperson Moises Tolentino said Piatco was not involved in transactions that its Japanese partner and contractor, Takenaka, may have entered into with its subcontractors.

"These are contracts between our principal contractor, Takenaka, and its subcontractors. We talk only with one contractor and whatever it does is its own call. Takenaka is the one that delivers the equipment to us. Agreements with subcontractors don't pass through us anymore," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Tolentino added that these subcontracting deals were exactly why Piatco hired a quality assurance inspector and coordinated with the Manila International Airport Authority's project management office.

"We have nothing to do with those things. We're just interested in Takenaka delivering the equipment to us. When the contractor delivers materials to us, we're confident that these already went through our quality assurance inspector and MIAA's PMO," he said.

Piatco also branded as the "same banana" Climaco's claim that exertion of government control over Naia 3 would not be a "takeover" but a "turnover."

"Whether you call it a "turnover" or "takeover," Tolentino said, the results are the same. The government will still assume control of the privately developed facility, which is a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project.

"Because a government takeover, which Climaco herself proposed, has not been well received by the public, she is now trying to execute a verbal turnabout, but turnover or takeover, it's the same banana," he said.

5 relieved officers get key posts in PNP revamp

By Leila B. Salaverria

FIVE of the seven police officers ordered relieved for their perceived failure to wipe out illegal gambling in their areas were among the 37 police officers assigned to key positions under a major revamp of the Philippine National Police under chief Hermogenes Ebdane.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay was appointed Deputy Chief for Operation, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya is the new director of the Civil Security Group, Director Avelino Razon Jr. is the new director of the Directorate for Human Resources and Doctrine Development, Director Domingo Reyes, Jr. is the new Deputy Inspector General of the Internal Affairs Services, and Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos was appointed as Deputy Director of the Directorate for Operations.

New posts

Also assigned to new posts were Director Virtus Gil as Acting Chief of the Directorial Staff, Director Jose Lalisan as Director of the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management, Chief Supt. Robert Delfin as Acting Director of the Directorate for Intelligence, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol as Acting Director of the Directorate for Operations and Director Ricardo de Leon as Director of the Directorate for Police Community Relations.

National Police Commission chair Jose Lina announced the names of the newly appointed police officers yesterday after an executive session with Ebdane and Napolcom commissioners Rogelio Pureza, Edgar Dula Torres and Linda Malenab-Hornilla. The list will be forwarded to Malacanang for the president's approval, said Lina.

The rest of those included in the revamp are Director Hercules Cataluna as head of the Directorate for Plans, Director Jose Poblete as head of the Directorate for Research and Development, Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano as Regional Office 1 Director, Chief Supt. Romulo Sales as Regional Office 2 Director, Chief Supt. Enrique Galang as Regional Office 4-A director, Senior Supt. Medardo Apacible as Regional Office 4-B Acting Director and Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor as Regional Office 5 Director;

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro as Regional Office 6 Director, Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia as Regional Office 7 Director, Chief Supt. Manuel Raval as Regional Office 10 Director, Chief Supt. Victor Luga as Regional Office CAR Director, Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal as Intelligence Group Director, Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa as Aviation Security Group Director, Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao as Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Director, Chief Supt. Alfredo De Vera as HQS Support Service Director, Senior Supt. Servando Hizon as Special Action Force Acting Director, Senior Supt. Merio Medios as Communication and Electronic Service Acting Director, Senior Supt. Oscar Valenzuela as Police Community Relations Group Acting Director;

Aliño

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble as Police Security Protection Office Director, Chief Supt. George Aliño as Maritime Group Director, Senior Supt. Claudio Cabreros as Deputy Regional Director for Operations, NCRPO Director, Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco as Northern Police District Acting Director, Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro as Central Police District Acting Director, Senior Supt. Teodorico Viduya as Directorate for Personnel and Records Management Acting Deputy Director, Senior Supt. Romeo Pagalilauan as Directorate for Logistics Acting Deputy Director, Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele as Directorate for Investigation and Direction Management Deputy Director and Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro as Directorate for Research and Development Deputy Director.

MTRCB EMPLOYEES display placards to dramatize their protest against their chair, Mari-Len Dinglasan. VAL HANDUMON

Employees want censors chair out

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board Employees Association held a protest rally yesterday at the MTRCB office at President Towers in Quezon City to demand the resignation of their chairman Marilen Dinglasan.

"It's nothing personal. The employees believe it is our right to have an untainted administration and this cannot happen under Dinglasan," said Mina Nacilla, president of the employees' association.

Dinglasan, however, said in a telephone interview that to resign "is not in my vocabulary. I don't think they (employees) have the right to tell me what to do."

"I have done no wrong, I have nothing to hide, I have been above board all the time," she said.

After the rally, Dinglasan held a "peaceful" dialogue with association members who, she said, were "now thinking about their next move."

In a complaint filed with the Ombudsman, MTRCB employees charged Dinglasan with grave abuse of authority and usurpation of the functions of the board, unauthorized use of a government vehicle, nepotism, the unnecessary hiring of a law firm, falsification of public documents and the arbitrary use of MTRCB funds.

Dinglasan said she learned during the dialogue that only six employees knew about the complaint when it was filed. "The others were not consulted. They only knew about it after reading the papers," she said.

'Walk 911-Give a Life' to sick kids

From page A1

ness, the sorrow," Daniel Garcia said before he started the 20-day walk.

Instead of joining the ceremonies in New York, Garcia launched the "Walk 911-Give a Life" project to raise funds for children at the pediatric wards 9 and 11 of the cash-strapped Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

"I wanna ask any help from America, in whatever help they can give to the children. Whatever equipment you might be getting rid off, send it on over here. Walk with us," said the 57-year-old former US Marine, a native of New York.

One child dies daily at the PGH for lack of medicines and equipment, according to Dr. Philip A. Cruz, chief resident of the PGH pediatric wards. The wards badly need, among other equipment, four ventilators, 10 incubators, two portable EKG machines and 50 VP shunts.

"It's resurrection time for the people in New York City (today). It's resurrection time for this hospital," said Garcia, who lost four friends due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Demonstrations

The first anniversary of the attacks brought pro-American and militants groups to the US Embassy in Manila. They expressed sympathy for the victims.

About 100 members of the pro-US Discovery Crusade Philippines, many in camouflage gear, carried American and Philippine flags and a large banner saying "Fight Terrorism, Support Strong Republic" as they marched on the embassy.

"The United States is not alone in her war against terrorism," said group leader Ely Pamatong. "There are millions and millions of Filipinos who are in support of this war against terrorism."

The marchers laid a wreath of flowers with a poster saying "Sept. 11, Never Again" in front of the embassy gates as a man and a woman, both in combat uniform, snapped a salute. Behind them two men held up a Philippine flag and a third a US flag.

Police, who have had the embassy under heavy guard since the attacks, later told the group to leave. Officers armed with M-16 rifles and other automatic weapons were backed by a machine gunner on a Humvee outside the embassy compound.

White roses

Anti-riot policemen, however, blocked members of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) carrying placards saying "Justice For Victims of 9/11, Justice For Victims of US Atrocities" on Roxas Boulevard and T.M. Kalaw Street.

Members of KMU, Migrante and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan tried to march on the embassy to offer white roses and candles to express sympathy for the victims of last year's terror attacks.

"As we demand justice for the tragic death of more than 3,000 people in the World Trade Center bombings, we also demand justice for all those who perished in the wars launched by the United States and its client states," said KMU secretary general Elmer Labog in a statement.

"We also call on the American people to stop (President George W.) Bush from his warmongering efforts to attack the peace-loving people of the world," he said. "Our grief is not a cry for war."

Members of the broad coalition Campaign for Peace and Justice (Peace Camp) were scheduled to go to the embassy at 5 p.m.

"We join the rest of the world, especially the citizens of America, in mourning the thousands who perished in the World Trade Center a year ago while we remain steadfast in our opposition to their government's impending war against Iraq," said Peace Camp co-chair Aurora Parong.

Candles

At dusk, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo led a solemn candle-lit march.

Around 150 members of the Justice Not War Coalition, including Franciscan friars, Muslims, animists and Ananda Marga followers, marched at around 5:30 p.m. along UN Avenue after holding an "interfaith, multi-racial and multi-national memorial service."

Police did not allow them to get near the embassy. Members of the coalition, who included Americans, Australians, Belgians, Japanese, Palestinians, and even Iraqis, were forced to leave their flowers, candles, and incense sticks on the middle of the street while they sang religious and nationalistic songs.

"On one hand, this is a memorial to the more than 3,000 who died at the New York, Pentagon, and Pennsylvania attacks, including 15 Filipinos working at the World Trade Center at the time," Fr. Allan Arcebuche OFM said.

"But our grief should not be mistaken as a cry for an unjust war. We cannot allow a far worse type of terror that may kill more civilians and vaporize an entire country like Iraq," he said.

In Quezon City, students and relatives of those killed fighting the now deceased dictator Ferdinand Marcos marked the Sept. 11 attacks by offering prayers at a shrine.

The US Embassy has scheduled a memorial concert by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

In a statement, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said the attacks "were strikes at the heart of our common values of democracy, freedom, interfaith tolerance, love of peace and the very value of human life itself."

Ricciardone thanked the Philippine government for supporting the United States.

Garcia was walking in Amman, Jordan, to raise funds for the surgical treatment of Iraqi and Palestinian children when the attacks happened.

The "Walk 911-Give a Life" will take Garcia from Manila to Isabela and from Baguio to Manila. Garcia figures that he will be walking around 50 miles a day.

After news of Garcia's walk came out in the Inquirer, PGH began receiving inquiries and pledges from individuals and groups. For inquiries, donors may call the "Give a Life" hotline at 899-1000. They may also deposit donations in Banco de Oro Account No. 043-007-1418. ***With a report from AP***

CNN stands by report on bomb plots

From page A1

ter Philippine security officials led by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez dismissed the CNN report as nothing new.

Albert del Rosario, Philippine ambassador to the United States, mentioned the alleged plot in an "urgent and confidential message" to President Macapagal-Arroyo, copies of which were released by the Palace to reporters.

Del Rosario, who is in Washington, said in his message that US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly told him of the al-Qaida threat on Tuesday.

"Assistant Secretary Kelly called to inform me that . . . American intelligence evaluation indicates imminent threats to US embassies . . . Intelligence evaluation indicates that al-Qaida operatives are prepared to launch truck bomb attacks and they are in possession of several tons of ammonium nitrate.

"...The intelligence community assesses an al-Qaida attack if not on Sept. 11 itself then at a later date depending on existing US security measures," Del Rosario said.

CNN said that its exclusive report of an al-Qaida plot against the US and Israeli embassies in the Philippines was based on new information.

In her report, CNN Jakarta bureau chief Maria Ressa said that a plot earlier hatched in Singapore to attack US and other Western interests had been moved from Singapore to Manila. She was quoting Mohammed Mansour Jabarah, a mid-level al-Qaida official now in US custody.

The change of venue could have been prompted by the foiling in December of a terrorist plot to blow up Western embassies, US Navy vessels, a shuttle bus carrying American soldiers and the offices of US companies in Singapore.

The CNN report was also based on information supplied by a lower level al-Qaida operative, Omar al-Faruq, who was arrested in Indonesia on June 5. He is now in US custody at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

The New York Times reported on Sept. 10 that Al-Faruq was an important source of information about planned terrorist strikes in Southeast Asia for the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Orange alert

Information from Al-Faruq and a mid-level al-Qaida operative, who had only in recent days started to supply information about the possibility of attacks, prompted President George W. Bush to order an "orange alert" two days ago, according to the New York Times.

An orange alert is the second highest in the five levels of national terrorism warnings.

The Times said a crash analytical effort by the Central Intelligence Agency corroborated the information with intelligence reports from other detainees and with material obtained from intercepted communications.

Some of the information was specific, including the evidence disclosed by Attorney General John Ashcroft on Sept. 10 that the plotters had been gathering explosives since early last year.

In her statement, Turner said it was "not true" that CNN based its reporting on an old Philippine intelligence document. Turner was referring to the statement of Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, head of the PNP Intelligence Group.

"CNN is not in possession of any Philippine intelligence document referring to this plot. CNN's report was based on new information, which came from neither the Philippines nor the United States, but from a third country. The verification of this information came from four nations and took almost one month," Turner said.

A day after the CNN aired the report, Golez said the cable network rehashed the story for the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

"There is no such direct threat. That's old news. CNN is just doing a series . . . and it came out just now with this old news about the threat to some embassies (in Manila)," Golez said.

Reyes said international publications reported the plot in March or April this year. "So this is recycled. There is nothing new about it," he said.

Lacson

Sen. Panfilo Lacson also believed that the CNN report was nothing new.

"Based on what Secretary Reyes had told me, that report was an old report, March 2002, and the Philippines took notice of that report," Lacson told the Inquirer in Lucena City at the Rotary Club of Lucena meeting yesterday.

But Lacson quickly added: "But my point is, why bring out such report and then afterwards, tell the people to calm down. What's the point?"

He said the government should have been more circumspect in its announcement of such kind of report.

"Why report it and frighten everybody, and then what follows next is the declaration that everything is under control, I don't see the logic there," the senator said.

Relief

Police officials yesterday heaved a sigh of relief when not a single terrorist act was reported in the country yesterday.

"As we have expected, it's peaceful. There was no terrorist threat in the first place," he said in an interview," Delfin said.

Delfin pointed out that fears of terrorist attacks had been fanned by news reports on supposed plots to attack US and Western interests in Manila.

But Reynaldo Wycoco, National Bureau of Investigation director, said that authorities had received reports that terrorists had wanted to commemorate the anniversary with something that "could be memorable."

Asked if there was any credible security threat, Wycoco said: "Let us say that since US intelligence and our own findings indicate that they (the terrorists) will celebrate with something that could be memorable, so we are prepared." ***Reports from Reuters, TJ Burgonio and Philip Tubeza in Manila; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

RP nurse recognized as Ground Zero hero

From page A1

tion of Life Magazine on the heroes of 9/11.

In January a nine-by-four feet photograph of Rebecca was part of an exhibit called "Faces of Ground Zero" photographed by the award-winning photojournalist Joe McNally.

"These people have a tremendous accomplishment, a tremendous stature," said McNally of his 85 portraits of firefighters, policemen, emergency workers, Rebecca and of course, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

In the picture, Rebecca is wearing her white uniform as an emergency room nurse at the New York University Downtown Hospital.

On opening day of the exhibit held at Grand Central Terminal last January, Rebecca is quoted as saying that she still gets a lump in her throat every time she thinks about the people she treated at Ground Zero. From New York, the exhibit moved to Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, London, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Single mother

A sister-in-law residing in this city, Lydia Canalija, told the Inquirer that Rebecca, despite the honors heaped upon her, was not one to make a fuss about what she had achieved. She told her family about the recognition she had received only after the event had happened. She described Rebecca, a single mother with a 9-year-old daughter, as "down-to-earth" and "bubbly." But the 9/11 attacks had left her shaken for several months.

Lydia said Rebecca had not informed her family that she was going to be one of the readers at the memorial for the victims of the terrorist attacks. It was the Inquirer that told Rebecca's family.

Rebecca is the sixth of the 10 children of Primitivo, 68, and Rosita Calija, 68. Her parents used to be corn and rice traders but are now into milling. The family owns a farm in Dinas town, Zamboanga del Sur.

Her brother Eliezer Canalija said he and his siblings went to Cebu to study. Only Eliezer, warehouseman of Universal Robina, decided to stay in Cebu for good.

Eliezer, who is Lydia's husband, said his sister went to work in a remote town in Zamboanga del Norte shortly after graduating from the Cebu Institute of Medicine between 1979 and 1980.

But she did not stay long. It was a remote barrio and there were times that somebody would serenade her. She found that weird and got her scared so she decided to return home to Dinas.

US bound

Eliezer said his sister had always wanted to work in the States. In 1984, Rebecca went to Cebu to take the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing School, a requirement for her to work abroad. She passed. The next year, she left for New York and landed a job at the NYU Downtown Hospital.

She was the nurse assigned to the emergency room of the NYU Downtown Hospital when the hijacked planes rammed into the twin towers.

At first, Rebecca thought it was an earthquake. Then people started rushing in to the hospital—some to seek shelter while many to ask for medical attention.

"They were the first to respond because the hospital is very near the World Trade Center. The hospital is just at the back of the World Trade Center," Lydia said.

Lydia said that her sister-in-law said the hospital canteen was immediately converted into an ER to accommodate the stream of people who needed medical attention. And there was dust in so many areas of the hospital.

Rebecca did not go home that day, not even to pick up her daughter from school. The girl was brought home by the teacher because she could not leave the hospital.

In fact, she had to stay in the hospital for a few days because of the number of patients they had to attend to.

Lydia said Rebecca's eyes had to be treated due to dust and lack of sleep.

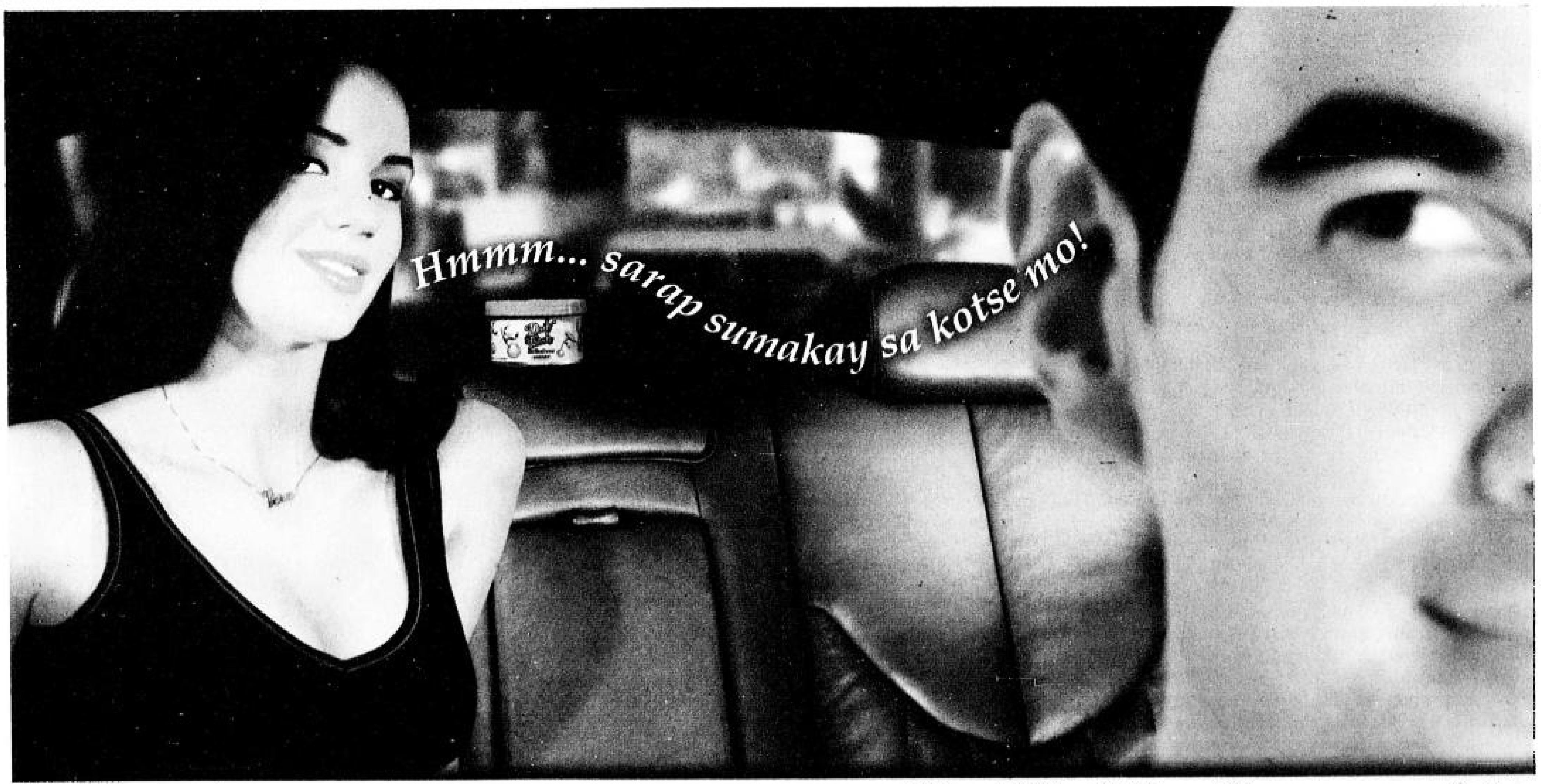
Sleep, however, continued to elude Rebecca for several weeks after 9/11.

Rebecca would call Lydia or some of her relatives, crying that every time she closed her eyes, all she could see and hear were the cries and moans of the patients.

The terror attacks made Rebecca fear flying. She had not gone home since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"She would just cry over the phone," Lydia said. "It took her a few months to recover from the trauma. Now, she is okay. She has overcome (her trauma)."

Lydia said Rebecca even called to question in jest why the wedding of a niece was scheduled in September when she could not go home.


Hmmm... sarap sumakay sa kotse mo!

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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EDITORIALS

Outrage

IT'S outrageous that even without being asked, and even as much of the civilized world is unequivocally opposing the idea of a US attack on Iraq, the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is stumbling all over itself to say, "Yes! Yes!" It's outrageous that the administration cannot even wait for the United Nations to issue a mandate on the matter before offering Philippine air space to US forces—the same air space that the US government freely used in bombing the bejesus out of Taliban hideouts (and, not incidentally, a few civilian areas) in Afghanistan in a futile attempt to flush out Osama bin Laden. Surely there are—or should be—limits to obsequiousness.

Of course, the President and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople have since performed a bit of mopping up and declared that, the proffered air space notwithstanding, the Philippines was not committed to the pursuit of war against Iraq. But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was quick to say that the last word on the issue had yet to be formulated, his subtext evidently being that war—and the Philippines' role in it—should not be counted out. The way it has been going, attentive observers should not hold their breath on this one.

And it's not just an exercise in facetiousness to say so, the US government having constantly displayed what Norman Mailer termed as "arrogance"—indeed, a superpower's arrogance to act against the better angels of world opinion (as witness its position on the Kyoto Protocol and the International Criminal Court). If and when, even as the United States is going through the paces of courting support for a supposed preemptive strike against Iraq, even as it has yet to formally request basing and flyover rights from certain countries, even as incontrovertible evidence of Saddam Hussein's links to al-Qaida and the global terrorist network has yet to be presented, its men and materiel are already in a position to move swiftly.

The firepower promises to be more awesome than that which saw action in the last decade's Operation Desert Storm, which smashed the limits of imagination and eclipsed all those breathtakingly expensive movies that ever saw production in Hollywood. Imagine—or at least try to—how much they cost. Having done so, imagine how many Iraqi children and their mothers can be fed using that money.

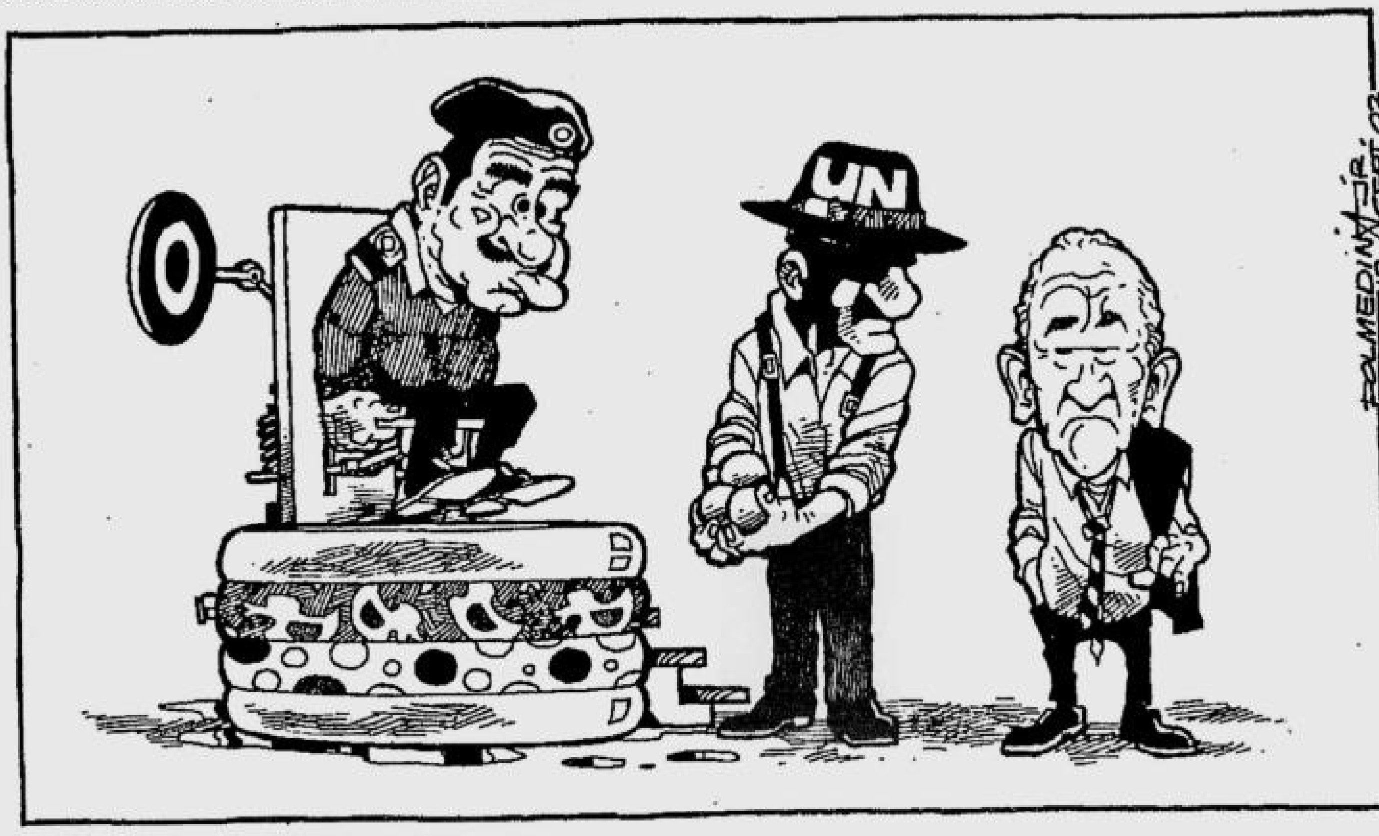
Obeisance

UNDER ITS tough-talking President and Commander in Chief, the Pearl of the Orient has taken the lead in paying obeisance to the global cop and its declared war on terror. It has behaved over and beyond the way a dutiful lieutenant should. It has danced attention and bent over backward in more ways than one. For its devotion, its friend and supposed ally cannot even be bothered to clean up the mess left to fester and kill in the former US military bases, and thinks nothing of deporting its citizens in handcuffs and body chains. (Never mind Senate President Franklin Drilon and his shoes—that shouldn't count in the reckoning.)

What other punishment is the Philippines willing to take?

Here are words to chew on from "Black Fire: The Making of an American Revolutionary," African-American author Nelson Peery's 1995 memoir on his youth in rural Minnesota, his education and experience as a hobo, and his years in the US Army:

"If the Americans had never committed genocide against the Indians; if they had never incited wars of annihilation between the native peoples of the land, if there had never been a Trail of Tears; if America had never organized and commercialized the kidnapping and sale into slavery of a gentle and defenseless African people; if it had never developed the most widespread brutal, exploitative system of slavery the world has ever known; if it had never sundered and torn and ground Mexico into the dust; if it had never attacked gallant, defenseless Puerto Rico and never turned that lovely land into a cesspool to compete with the cesspool it created in Panama; if it had never bled Latin American of her wealth and had never cast her exhausted people onto the dung heap of disease and ignorance and starvation; if it had never pushed Hiroshima and Nagasaki into the jaws of hell—if America had never done any of these things—history would still create a special bar of judgment for what America did to the Philippines."



Did Liongson pay tax on his $5-million fee?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PIATCO controversy is turning out to be a battle among prominent law firms. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has already inhibited himself as chair of the seven-member Cabinet committee created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the contract to build the Naia Terminal 3. Perez said his former partners in the Balgos and Perez law firm are now serving as counsel for the MIA Association of Service Operators (Maso), one of the groups opposing the Piatco contract. Defending Piatco is Ateneo law dean Eduardo delos Angeles, senior partner in the Romulo, Mabanta, Sayoc & Delos Angeles law office.

If I am not mistaken, this law office was one of the law firms that went against President Estrada at the height of his impeachment trial (the other was the Carpio, Villaraza, Cruz law firm, now the Villaraza, Angangco firm). Wasn't it the Romulo-Delos Angeles firm that led the Makati Business Club and civil society groups in working for Erap's ouster from Malacañang? Isn't it ironic that this firm is now fighting for a controversial contract perfected during Erap's time?

Several key provisions in the contract were in fact negotiated and signed during the time of Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr. Although Erap himself is washing his hands of the Piatco deal, it cannot be denied that Rivera, who was Erap's running mate in the presidential elections, was the one who signed amendments to the Piatco contract. These amendments are now being claimed by no less than President Macapagal as "flawed" and "disadvantageous to the government." Another irony is that Rivera used to be the personal pilot of GMA's father, President Diosdado Macapagal.

This only proves the old saying that there are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests. And this applies so well to what is happening to Piatco.

A review ordered by the President has uncovered a proverbial Pandora's box of questionable provisions: very high terminal fees, a monopoly of airport operations, bloated construction costs and dubious government guarantees on loans. The person who uncovered these questionable provisions, Presidential Adviser for Special Projects Gloria Tan Climaco, has now become the object of a hate campaign.

The paradox was that before Climaco came out with her findings and recommendations, everybody was saying that the contract was onerous and should be cancelled. Then Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez could not be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments and was finally forced to give up his post because of it. Now that Climaco has come out with exactly what they had been clamoring for, there is a complete turnabout by the critics. They are now excoriating her for recommending exactly what they had been asking for earlier.

But if Piatco can prove that it has no monopoly on airport operations, that it will not charge each passenger $20 as terminal fee, that there is no overpricing in the construction cost and that there is no government loan guarantee, then Climaco will have been proven wrong and her critics right.

* * *

Is mystery man Alfonso Liongson a real person or just a figment of the imagination just like Jose Velarde? Apparently, he really exists although he cannot be located now. The $5-million public relations fee has been traced to a bank account in his name in Hong Kong. The question is, did he pay income tax on it? And did Piatco deduct withholding tax on it? Failure to do either is tax evasion or plunder, the same charge Erap is facing which is punishable by death. That amount is equivalent to more that P250 million at current exchange rates, and a 20-percent tax on that is P50 million.

What did Liongson do to deserve that high a fee? people are asking.

Some speculate that maybe he did not get all that money. Maybe most of it went to some other people in the government. Maybe Liongson was just a dummy and a conduit.

Unfortunately, those questions cannot be answered unless Liongson shows up (like Abu Sabaya?) and decides to sing. But why would he do a foolish thing like that when death by lethal injection awaits him?

But what if Liongson is given immunity from prosecution if he spills the beans? To whom did the money really go? We want the mastermind, the real culprits, not a dummy and a fall guy.

And what if he is given witness protection so he won't be afraid that he would not live long enough to testify against his co-conspirators? Can Liongson be coaxed into coming out and testifying? After all, the alternative is to be a hunted man, hiding and living a lonely miserable life until he is finally captured, tried and executed. Ratting on your co-conspirators and making a clean breast of it may be a better alternative to being a fugitive.

Shouldn't the government at least make the offer and give Liongson a choice?

Doppelganger

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD it the other Saturday at a farewell dinner for a friend. Someone introduced me to a woman from the Department of Foreign Affairs. Upon hearing my name, she said tentatively, "Yes, I think I met you a couple of times in our office."

I was puzzled and said, "Really? When was this?" ready to apologize for my horrible inability to remember names and faces. She said recently—the last time only last April.

I said I hadn't been to the DFA in ages. Well, she admitted, I did not look like the Conrado de Quiros she met at the DFA. At least I did not look the age. The one she met was easily 15 or 20 years older than me. Though, she said laughing, "He did look a little like you. That is probably how you would look when you grow old." The man, she said, was in his middle or late 60s, wore scruffy clothes and had a pronounced five o'clock shadow on his jaw. Her first impression was: How can a columnist afford to be this shabby, particularly when dealing with a government office?

Her second reaction,, she said, laughing even more, was to think: So, that's how columnists do it—they put their high school pictures in their columns. The gap in age between the person she met and the picture that appears on this column was that huge.

Well, I said, laughing as well, the gap between that picture and me was getting to be that huge too. I know I should change that picture, I added, I just never got around to it. Laziness, rather than vanity, was the culprit. I've never thought looks were my strongest suit.

Our conversation took on a more alarming note when she said the person who introduced himself as Conrado de Quiros to her said he was from the INQUIRER. She remembered this in particular because at the time the fellow applied for a passport, the DFA was suffering from a shortage and was asking applicants to wait a while. The DFA, however, had a special window for journalists, and this fellow had taken it claiming to be working for the INQUIRER.

"Didn't you ask him for identification?" I asked. "No," she said, "it didn't occur to us to ask identification from Conrado de Quiros."

I said the last time I went to get my passport at the DFA, which was probably a decade ago (I've relied on travel agencies since), I fell in line along with everybody else. The line was moving reasonably briskly anyway, and I saw no point in asking for special treatment. In fact, I've never as a matter of course used the INQUIRER or my column to ask for special treatment, which has been a source of amusement to my journalist friends. Short of an emergency, I won't do that. I was beginning to get very pissed at the fellow.

I was bowled over completely when my new acquaintance from the DFA said: "In fact, he gave us the same address, your place at BLISS."

I don't know how he got my address, though that has never been a secret to my readers, but clearly this was no longer a coincidence, someone just happening to have the same name. Someone was usurping my identity. And just as clearly to no good purpose. The application for a passport using my name suggested the fellow was not just in a hurry to obtain one, he was at pains to obtain one—legally. Which means he has run afoul of the law. Indeed, which means he will continue to run afoul of the law.

I suddenly remembered that in July of last year, while leaving for the United States, I was stopped by an immigration official who said there was a hold order on me. Fortunately, the fellow beside him recognized me from past travels; I was a *suki* of his. He told his colleague, "Don't you recognize him? He's the guy from the INQUIRER."

I asked to see the list of people on the hold order, and true enough, there was a Conrado de Quiros printed there. I thought that was a remarkable coincidence, given that my name is not a very common one. During martial law, some military guys even took it to be a pen name. They asked some friends of mine whom they had taken into custody if they were using that nom de guerre. But that's another story.

We even had the same middle initial, S, though this time his S spelled a different name. If this was the same person who had been stealing my name—and face (that is grand larceny!)—he might have decided to use a different middle name as a loophole. If someone finds him out, he can always say he's not impersonating anyone, he is a different person who just happens to have the same name.

It's scary, and I am writing this to warn the public against this poseur. You see someone in his mid-60s, wearing scruffy clothes with a five-o'clock shadow pasted on his jaw, introducing himself as Conrado de Quiros from the INQUIRER, be very wary. Better still, ask him for identification. Even better, notify the nearest police station. I do not worry that this will inconvenience me because I never introduce myself as being from the INQUIRER, unless it's on official or journalistic business.

My new friend from the DFA went on: "Someone actually told me you would attend this gathering, so the first thing I did when I got here was to look for you. When I did not see you anywhere, I thought to myself you probably decided not to come. Turns out he wasn't you."

The party was almost breaking up when I met her and made this discovery. A completely serendipitous one, it turns out. When we got up to leave, my new acquaintance said, "I'm very glad to have met you—finally."

I shared her sentiments completely. I did not say, "I'm very glad to have met you, too." I said, "I'm very glad you have met me."

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Spain to build ophthalmology center in PGH

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHILE lining up for the buffet at the recent get-together hosted by Israel Ambassador Trit Ben-Abba in honor of visiting Israeli stage actor Gil Alon who lectured on art and theater in present-day Israel, I happened to stand next to Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja. I asked him about his reaction to the decision two weeks ago of President Macapagal-Arroyo to postpone her official visit to Spain and two other European countries earlier set for October due to "domestic reasons." It's widely believed that the reasons for the postponement are the financial crisis facing the government and GMA's desire to sustain the momentum of her campaign against criminality and bureaucratic corruption

The envoy told this columnist that he understands the predicament of the President. I told him that GMA's decision was popular and that, by contrast, Indonesian President Megawati is reaping a lot of brickbats for continuing her foreign travels.

* * *

I pressed the Spanish ambassador about the implications of postponing such a visit, whose highlight would have been a state dinner tendered by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia. Pantoja said that while he understands the reasons given by the Palace, this is about the right time to make a visit for two good reasons. One is that Spanish businessmen are looking for an alternative investment site inasmuch as the two largest economies in Latin America where they have invested heavily in communications and other infrastructure, Brazil and Argentina, are having enormous difficulties at the moment. It will be recalled that Brazil had to be rescued with the largest financial bailout in IMF history. Thus, Spanish businessmen, Pantoja noted, would naturally be eyeing the Philippines in Asia (not to mention China, of course) since they are familiar with this country; but it needs greater exposure in the rest of Europe, which a visit by GMA would have done.

Another reason, the envoy said, is that at present there are no distractions in Spain, such as elections, which could "weaken" certain commitments of the government. Local elections will still be in 2003, while the national elections will be in March 2004. Pantoja said the 2004 elections will usher in a new prime minister since Prime Minister Jose Ma. Aznar has indicated that he will not run anymore.

* * *

Pantoja expressed hope that the Macapagal-Arroyo official visit could be rescheduled soon, as the King and the Aznar government are quite eager to receive her. He stressed the soft spot of King Juan Carlos for this country, recalling that he and the Queen spent their honeymoon here in the late 1960s. But even though the visit remains unclear, said Pantoja, the aid commitment of the Spanish government continues, as manifested by cultural and community services projects in Vigan and Camiguin. He also disclosed that in a few months, ground-breaking rites will be held for a modern, $8-million ophthalmology center at the Philippine General Hospital to be named after the country's most famous ophthalmologist, Dr. Jose Rizal. It will be funded 50 percent by an outright Spanish government grant and 50 percent by a soft loan from Spanish corporations. This should be a big boon to the poor folks for whom ophthalmological services remain a luxury.

* * *

At the recently-concluded World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez lamented that a tenth of the earth's coral reefs has been destroyed and nearly one-third have been seriously degraded by destructive fishing, overfishing, pollution and many other factors. At the current rate of coral reef destruction, he said, 75 percent would lie in ruins in just 50 years. The end result of this is that the world's food security would be threatened, since coral reefs, which Alvarez termed the "rainforests of the sea," are the major food resources. He pointed out that in the Philippines, where 80 percent of the people depend chiefly on fish for protein, a day's fishing that used to yield 20 kilos per fisher in 1920 can now only produce two kilos for many small Filipino fishermen.

* * *

Fortunately, Alvarez pointed out, some measures are being taken to protect the coral reefs. For one thing, the Macapagal administration has put into operation Department Order No. 17, which increased the fishing area for small fisherfolk to 15 kilometers from seven, thus protecting them from big commercial fishing outfits. Another is the formation by the provinces of Cebu, Bohol, Leyte and Southern Leyte of a management council to protect a very rare geological phenomenon common to their waters, the Danajon Bank Double-Barrier Reef. During my recent visit to Bohol, Gov. Erico Aumentado told me about this reef, which is caused by a combination of favorable tidal currents and coral growth in a submarine ridge found in the area. There are in the world a number of single-barrier reefs that are documented, one of them the Great Australian Barrier Reef, but as Aumentado explained it, there are fewer known double-barrier reefs. The Danajon Reef is the only one documented in the Philippines and South Asia, and it is between 1.6 and 3.2 km wide with a total area of approximately 1,715 sq km and is composed of abundant coralline resources, diverse seabed and extensive mangrove growth. The governors of the four provinces—Aumentado, Pablo Garcia of Cebu, Remedios Petilla of Leyte and Rosette Yñiguez Lerias of Southern Leyte—have banded together to protect this natural wonder through the formation of an inter-province technical working group. It's a great idea. Orchids to them.

Tales of cancer warriors

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT isn't usual to think of children living with cancer as "warriors," but as James Auste, himself a young cancer survivor, told me, children battling the effects of cancer and its treatments are indeed warriors waging a gallant battle for their lives.

This Sunday, Sept. 15, young survivors will share their stories during the restaging of "Cancert: Kantahan para sa Kabataang may Kanser" at the Philamlife Auditorium. It promises to be a night of feeling and fellowship as survivors share their stories in between song numbers from volunteer chorales and singing groups.

"Cancert 2" features performances by the Ateneo Chamber Singers, Hangad, Manila Chamber Singers, University of the East Chorale, St. Scholastica's College High School Glee Club, among other singing groups. The show aims to raise funds for the proper treatment and quality care of children with cancer who can't afford medication. Part of the proceeds is also allotted for awareness-raising projects to generate the involvement of various sectors of society in the fight against cancer.

Tickets are priced at P250, which is the cost of a dose of Vincristine, a drug taken daily by cancer patients in tandem with their chemotherapy. Those who wish to extend more help may avail themselves of donor seats, which are priced at P1,000. For tickets and other inquiries, you may get in touch with Julius Guevara at 913-74-82 or 0917-531-91-85.

* * *

THE STORIES told by children living with and battling cancer provide insights and lessons that go far beyond surviving the disease and coping with the treatment.

Here are three stories about three children with cancer, stories filled with heartbreak and pain, true, but also hope and inspiration, stories told by other cancer warriors standing on the same battleground.

The first is about Esther Joy Linart, 11, a warrior fighting the pain and horror of bone cancer. "That day, I was there helping her cope with the reality that she was going to lose her right leg. As I listened to her, I could not help but reflect on how at a very young age, she was already facing a major loss. She shared with me her fears of losing her leg—of not being able to do the things she enjoyed most—playing, running, dancing—of not being able to live long enough to graduate and live out her dreams of taking care of her mother, Claire, who had stood by her and single-handedly taken care of her through all these trying years.

"The amputation was completed—it was successful and we all rejoiced that even if she was losing her leg, she was going to survive. In November, during the Terry Fox Run (Fox is a Canadian who also lost his leg to cancer), we ran with her (a team of Cancer Warrior volunteers pushed/carried her wheelchair) from the Cultural Center grounds all the way to Luneta, to help meet her dream of getting a new leg. She was so happy that day with all the promises she was given by key personalities. Unfortunately, a month and a half later, before they could make good on their promise of a new leg, Joy developed a new infection and was unable to recover. On Christmas Day, her mother marked Christmas alone, watching her only daughter lying in a coffin."

* * *

SHAYNE Pitpit is a nine-month old baby girl from Batac, Ilocos Norte. Since her diagnosis last June 2001 of endodermal sinus tumor (nose area), Shayne has undergone an operation to remove the mass in her nasal area and has had to cope with the distressful effects of six chemotherapy sessions.

"When I think of Baby Shayne, I cannot help but think of other nine-month old babies—how they have nothing to worry about—except playing, eating, sleeping and starting to walk. But when Baby Shayne cries, it is because of the pain of an injection, yet another IV, or yet another procedure. When Baby Shayne sleeps, it is because she is drained of energy and needs to regain her strength for yet another day battling this formidable opponent known as childhood cancer!

"Baby Shayne needs three more monthly sessions of chemotherapy. After that, she can look forward to enjoying a normal life. Her monthly treatment costs about P10,000, surely a small amount compared to the possibility of giving her a future."

* * *

RUSSEL is a bubbly 2-year-old from Cavite who, because of cancer is one of the many one-eyed or even no-eyed warriors of the Cancer Warriors Foundation. He was one of the first retinoblastoma (cancer of the retina of the eye) cases supported by the foundation.

Russel and his "classmates" (kids with retinoblastoma) are the reason the foundation supports Dr. Aiee Antonio's dream of setting up a foundation focused on retinoblastoma. Her dream was achieved through the "Cancert" last September that raised the seed money for the foundation.

The first step Russel went through was an operation which removed his left eye to give him a higher chance of survival. Then he went through eight sessions of monthly chemotherapy and, to increase the odds against recurrence, he also needed to go through 26 sessions of cobalt therapy.

At the time the foundation first met Russell, his parents were about to give up on his treatment, being nearly buried in debt and overcome by expenses. The foundation shouldered the 26 sessions of cobalt treatment Russell needed and now he enjoys what other kids take for granted—time for play, friends, fun time with the family and a life outside the hospital.

Right now, the foundation is raising funds for an artificial eye for Russell. Otherwise, the boy is like any other child his age, except that he seems to be more boisterous, energetic and active than most!

Community of caring societies

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

BALI—Among the 10 panel discussions at the recent Asean People's Assembly (APA), the most packed was the one on "Religion and Politics in Southeast Asia." There were three or four panel discussions going on each time and one just had to give up the other topics to go to one. Religion and politics was hard to pass up. For a few interesting hours Islam and Muslims were on the spotlight—here on the enthralling island of Bali, this Hindu enclave in predominantly Muslim Indonesia.

APA 2002 brought together some 300 people from various sectors from 10 Asean countries. APA 2002 was the second assembly (the first was held last year also in Indonesia). The organizers, among them, the Asean Institutes of Strategic Studies, hope to make APA a regional event that would contribute toward bridging the gap between governments and their civil-society sectors. This should lead to constructive dialogues on social, political and economic issues.

APA also seeks to contribute toward the building of an Asean community, one that is not limited to the powerful sectors but inclusive of ordinary citizens. The APA vision is that of "a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in dynamic development and in a community of caring societies." Where despite differences in culture and tradition, there is respect for common values like the rule of law, people's participation in decision-making, social equity and where all governments operate in an open society.

"A community of caring societies"—what a dream. But before getting there, so many prejudices that have to be put aside. A lot of talking before doing.

There was indeed a lot of talking at APA 2002. Those in a rush to see some action will have to put up with the pace. First, people have to make sure they are speaking the same language and seeing the same picture—and from what perspective?

The forum on religion and politics was a spirited one. Although it was not meant for one religion, the discussions simply led to Islam.

The Jakarta Post reported that discussions pointed to a crisis in leadership among religious groups. Someone did bring up the fact that unlike in Christianity, particularly Roman Catholicism, Islam has no one recognized leader like the pope or centralized leadership. Who does one talk to in Islam? Or who talks in behalf of the many? Who do the many listen to?

Former Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said there was a lack of courage among religious leaders to speak up. Especially when religion is being invoked to achieve political ends, especially when religion is used to justify inhuman acts.

Dr. Farish A. Noor of Malaysia, an expert on Islamic movements, said that authoritarian governments in Southeast Asia have contributed to radical conservatism among Muslims. The conservatives became vocal, he said, while the liberal progressive Muslims "were caught in a battle of Muslim souls." These liberals retreated, Noor added, and lost sight of the challenge of how Islam should be used as a powerful tool for a new form of politics, just as Islam was used by nationalists to fight colonial rule. He cited liberation theology in Christianity that has opened doors toward social change.

This so-called new form adheres to the universal values of human rights, democracy and how Islam could serve humanity. Alas, leaders are using Islam for their political survival.

But hard-liners should not be wished away altogether, isolated or excluded from dialogues. Doing this would just alienate them even more. Indonesian columnist Hamid Basyah said stigmatizing the fundamentalists raises their prestige. Moderates have to challenge the fundamentalists theologically and present other modes of interpretation of Islam.

Noor said that Islam has been presented as the "last barrier" to the harsh reality of Western hegemony. But no, Noor added, the new politics of Islam should lead to universal humanism. "This is the direction it must take," Noor stressed.

And, of course, came time for definitions. What is radical, conservative and fundamentalist? Noor said the world cannot rely on "the Pentagon's dictionary on Muslims." What is a CNN Muslim or a BBC Muslim? he asked. And, he added sarcastically, what about a CNN diploma on Islamic Studies?

Zulkifli bin Baharudin, former nominated member of parliament in Singapore, said that after 9/11 Islam was regarded not as a spiritual but as a political movement. He pointed out that more affluence brought about more involvement in spiritual pursuits, like teenagers going on pilgrimages (haj). Did this mean moving toward conservatism and non-involvement?

But Muslims, he stressed, are as diverse as any other community. And be careful with the symbols of Islam (the dress code, etc.). Look rather into the essence of Islam. There is no need to fear these symbols. There should be accommodation, he said, rather than resistance.

There were other topics discussed: AIDS, NGO governance, the global media, corruption in Asean, transnational crimes, human rights, social conflict, information technology, and of course, that bad word, globalization.

The quality of post-assembly activities before APA 2003 should prove that the APA participants walk their talk, that they are serious about making the Asean region "a community of caring societies."

After the last word had been said and everybody had dispersed to the four winds, I hied off to Ubud, the vaunted heart of Bali art and culture. Alone, for a couple of days, in a magnificent setting.

TNT

"TRINITROTOLUENE" is what those three letters mean to people who have a background in Chemistry. It is a chemical compound that makes for powerful explosive. But to ordinary Filipinos, it stands for illegal immigrants in some foreign country who must go "*tago nang tago*," to stay so that they can continue to earn a decent living for their families back home.

YOUNG BLOOD

JAZ

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

My father is a "TNT" somewhere in the United States for almost six months now. It was his decision—or their decision, counting mom in—and he had to do it because they could barely make both ends meet with what they were earning as government employees in our beloved country. My father used to work in one of those government institutions which tries to enhance our workers' skills so that they can find better jobs (how ironic!), while my mother teaches in a public high school.

My father had his "plans" well laid out months before his departure, from his immigration papers to the possible (odd) jobs he would try to get. He breezed his way through the interview at the American Embassy at a time when reports said US immigration authorities were extra strict about issuing visas to those who wanted to visit their country.

He's not really that new to this kind of life. He already went "underground" a few years back—not in the United States, but in the land Down Under. He left for Australia when I was barely one year old and stayed there for six straight years.

To me, everything seemed normal in the first few years of my life since I did not know how it felt to have a real father around. My father's older brother was the closest thing to a dad that I had. I thought I was missing nothing.

My father would call us from time to time to ask how we were doing and send *balikbayan* boxes containing stuff one usually finds in them: clothes, canned goods, toys, pictures, etc.

But during one of our phone conversations, I blurted out without giving it much thought: "*Papa, hindi pa kita nahahawakan* (Papa, I have never held you)."

That line must have melted his heart. In 1991, he returned to the Philippines (and got terribly sick with dengue fever). He did his best to make up for the time we should have shared together. And for 11 years he was here, before he decided to leave us again in search of greener pastures.

Now I am feeling again the void that was there during the first years of my life. I yearn for intimacy and affection from my father, or someone who resembles him. Maybe this is a psychological hangover from his absence during my younger years, and it's confusing me.

My father says he works in the morning in a hospital as some kind of nursing assistant and studies in the afternoon to increase his knowledge in the medical field. He sends money regularly but it is beginning to look like we were better off when he was still here working for the government.

If I were to have my way, I want him to return as soon as possible. In fact, I wouldn't have allowed him to leave the country in the first place. His presence is more important than the material things he tells us he is going to send soon. My mother has become more sickly since the time he left us. And I won't hesitate to pick a complete and healthy family over material affluence. Call me selfish or thoughtless, but I sometimes feel as if I belong to a broken family, sans the conflict between a husband and wife or the presence of a third party, and the emotional turmoil that goes with it.

There are many disadvantages in being a "TNT" in a strange land. First, when there's an emergency it is not easy to decide to come home since going back to the foreign country is going to be doubly difficult. If one is found to have stayed illegally, he runs the risk of being barred from returning to that country. Within a span of almost two months, both my father's parents died. It was one of the lowest points of my life, but what made it worse was that my father could not come home to bury them. He could have taken care of them before their death, but he was in another place attending to the needs of some older folks to whom he was not related.

Another problem is that a "TNT" must live in constant fear of being caught by immigration authorities. I can imagine my father ducking and hiding behind shop windows and clothes compartments whenever he sees an immigration officer or somebody who resembles one.

Another equally important problem is loneliness and missing the people closest to him like his family and friends. Some people say it's just a matter of time before you get used to such things. But during my first few days alone in a boarding house when I first went to college, my loneliness seemed to be overwhelming. And to think that I would be together with my family again after a few days on the weekend.

Indeed after spending more than two years in college, I still look forward eagerly to the weekends when I will be home with my family and seeing my friends. I cannot imagine how anyone can survive in another part of the world, separated by thousands of miles and seas from his loved ones, without knowing with some certainty when he will be seeing them again. For sure my father will not be back this coming weekend, not next month, not even next year.

I cannot voice out my feelings to my father. I just wish he knows how I feel. And despite everything, I love him for being such a wonderful father, for sacrificing a lot for our family's sake, including living as a "TNT."

JAZ, 18, is a student at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

THEY SAID

Too much politics

"There is an excess of politics and intramurals but there's lack of political will."

—Former President Fidel V. Ramos, criticising political leaders

Blinded by love

"There are times that you would be blinded by love. My mom has a clearer version."

—Kris Aquino, on her controversial love life

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Warning to officials coddling illegal Chinese fishermen

IT has been reported that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is considering the release of the Chinese fishermen caught illegally fishing in the Tubbataha Marine Park, a World Natural Heritage Site. It has been reported that the foreign secretary wishes to offer up their release as a gesture of goodwill and to butter up a Chinese official who is due to visit the Philippines shortly.

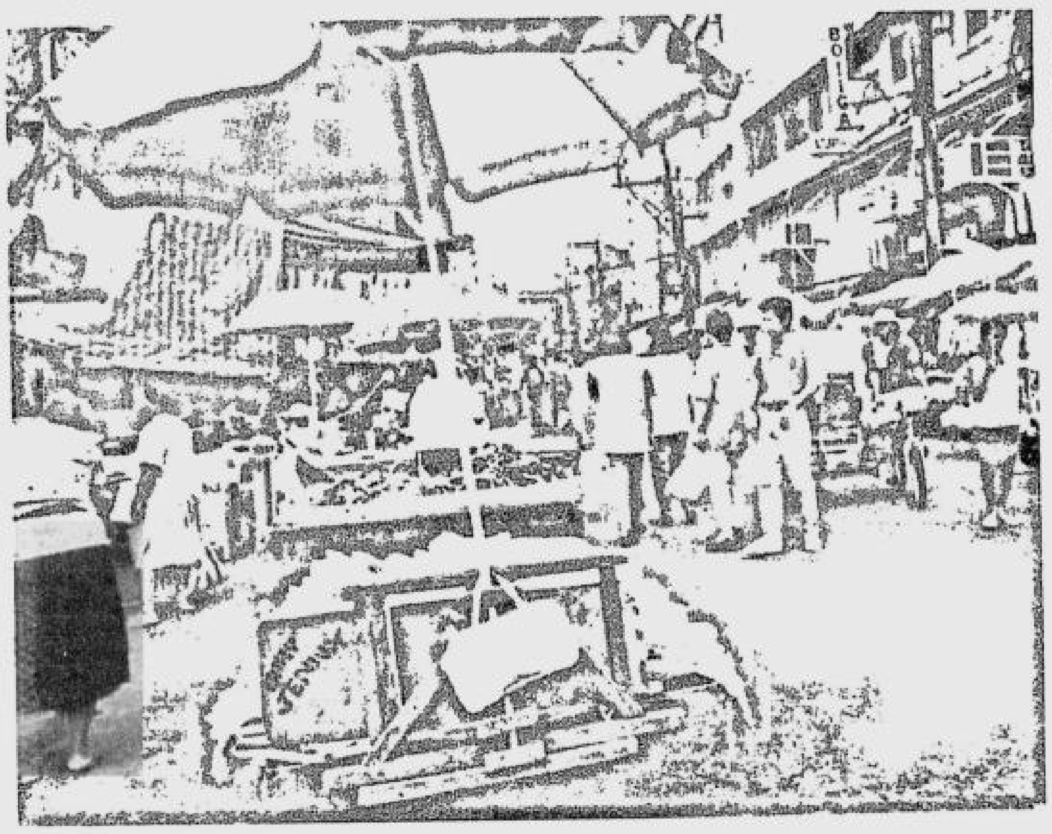
Let our priceless natural heritage not become a sacrifice before the false altar of cheap diplomatic sycophancy.

On behalf of numerous other scuba divers and concerned citizens of the Philippines, backed up by a team of local and international environmental lawyers, we respectfully manifest our vigorous objection to this planned move. The Tubbataha Marine Park occupies a special place in the heart of all scuba divers here and around the world. In this relatively small dive site—a genuine crown jewel of the Philippine seas—one may find more kinds of corals and fish than in the entire Great Barrier Reef of Australia and the Caribbean Seas put together.

Should the concerned DFA officials persist in this reported move, we respectfully issue this formal notice. We will commence a series of class-action suits against any official who will cause or facilitate the fishermen's release. Such administrative, civil and criminal actions are, among others, the following: obstruction of justice, violation of the fisheries code, anti-graft charges for manifest partiality resulting in losses for the national and natural patrimony, grave abuse of authority, violation of the rights of the citizens to a clean and healthful ecology and multi-million environmental damages.

That is only the beginning. In due course we will raise the matter before the Unesco, under whose jurisdiction the World Heritage Sites have been placed, and other international tribunals (e.g., Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention, International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas, etc.).

—ANTONIO A. OPOSA JR.,
spokesperson, Tubbataha Defense Team, Westgate Tower,
Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, 1780 Ayala
Alabang, Muntinlupa City



Give us back the sidewalks

I AM referring to Amando Doronila's column titled "Returning the streets to the public," published last Sept. 4. I also read the two letters to the editor: "Are there really no alternatives?" and "The only choices left to vendors."

Yes, there are alternatives and no, the vendors have no choice left but to give us back the sidewalks first.

Poverty, rising from the unequal distribution of wealth, is not the problem of pedestrians like me. This is a problem of governance, of the rich who can use several cars. Our state of poverty is their problem. It is not the problem of the majority of us who have to walk. Has everybody forgotten we also have rights? We need the sidewalks. We are sideswiped by trucks when we walk on the streets.

Using poverty as the excuse for sidewalk vendors to appropriate what rightfully belongs to all pedestrians is not right. Vendors can continue selling their wares if they walk and do their selling from house to house as they used to do not so long ago. Even now I buy my fish, vegetables, *taho* and *suman* from ambulant vendors who come to our village every day.

I am not anti-poor. I am 81, a widow with only the PVAO pension of my USAFFE husband in my name. How can I be anti-poor? For the better part of my life, as a child and as a teenager in Intramuros, and as a student and teacher in Manila, I used to walk kilometers and kilometers on safe sidewalks unencumbered by obstructions. Why is it that I cannot do the same anymore? Old folks like me who need to walk to exercise have no more sidewalks to walk safely on. I have paid taxes all my life. Why not give me back the sidewalks which I helped pay for?

We just want our sidewalks back. So we can walk and just walk safely again. Is this too much to ask?

Carry on, Bayani Fernando! We may disagree with you on using our private streets to decongest traffic but we are wholeheartedly with you on declogging our sidewalks first!

—CONSUELO D. SISON,
10 Alpha Rd., Alpha Village,
Quezon City

Kidney transplant processes at NKTI

THIS is regarding an article published in your newspaper last Aug. 26.

Mario Avila was indeed diagnosed to have end-stage renal disease secondary to chronic glomerulonephritis at the Out-Patient Department of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. He is presently on home dialysis or the so-called chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD).

Avila wanted to have a kidney transplant, so he sought the help of the Medical Social Service of the NKTI to avail of discounts in laboratory procedures and medications. Before a service patient undergoes the work-up prior to kidney transplantation, he is required to present a possible donor from his immediate family. Avila has seven brothers and sisters. All of them were requested to present themselves for screening, but not one volunteered to be a donor.

Of the more than 2,000 kidney transplants performed at the NKTI since 1983, the biggest number of patients had living relatives as donors. A smaller number resorted to cadaver organs which are being allocated by the cadaver organ retrieval program of the institute called Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE). Other patients had living non-relatives as kidney donors but this kind of organ donation has to be approved by the ethics committee.

The Transplant Support Team of the NKTI gives a bi-monthly seminar to dialysis patients undergoing work-up for transplantation, potential organ donors and their relatives. This is also one of the requirements before the work-up. If Avila and his relatives had complied with this requirement, they would have understood everything that has to do with transplantation, most specially the part that entails expenses.

Avila can be saved if any of his siblings will donate one kidney to him so he can undergo transplantation.

We wish to inform the public that the NKTI does not buy or sell kidneys as if it were a trade. We always encourage living related donors and for those who do not have one, they are welcome to enroll in the cadaver program handled by HOPE.

—DR. AILEEN RIEGO-JAVIER,
deputy executive director
for administrative services,
National Kidney and Transplant
Institute, East Avenue,
Quezon City

Comelec chief supports recall elections

THIS has reference to the news item, titled "Tinga foes groom trader to fight him."

Allow me to clarify some points that were raised in the article. I believe I was taken out of context regarding the statements I made in a radio interview when in answer to a query, I said that expenses for recall elections are shouldered by the Commission on Elections and not the local government. When asked further as to how the Comelec was to source the expenses, I said that we might again use a portion allotted for the modernization program considering the number of recall elections (i.e., Cantanduanes Governor Verceles; Puerto Princesa City Mayor Socrates; Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña) and special elections (in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte due to the disqualification of Rep. Romeo Jalosjos and the First District of Cavite due to the death of Rep. Napoleon Beratio).

I would like to state for the record that I am not discouraging the conduct of recall elections in Taguig or in any other part of the country. The recall provision in the 1987 Constitution is a people-power provision, hence, a product of the Filipino people's struggle for genuine democracy. I have been a staunch supporter of the People Power Movement and I will always be supportive of laws protective of the Filipino masses such as the mechanism for recall.

Finally, I am sure that Rep. Allan Cayetano would not have made such pronouncements in the article if he heard my interview and understood the full context of my statement regarding recall elections.

—BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, chair,
Commission on Elections,
Intramuros, Manila

LETTERS

Taming deficit by strategic use of ICT

THE COUNTRY'S economic managers should perhaps look back because they are fast approaching the same path the Marcos technocrats walked on. Continued borrowing from the mid-1970s to fund development projects that couldn't pay for themselves led to the 1984 financial crisis that forced the government to declare a debt moratorium. If we were in the United States, this would be like invoking Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy law. Remember the adage that one who doesn't learn from history is doomed to repeat it.

To the Philippine economy, the budget deficit which is expected to exceed P150 billion this year and the P500 billion in non-performing assets of the banking sector are like nutrients needed by the human body to grow and repair damaged cells. Consequently, the economy will continue to be weak because it cannot use these resources to expand production. Job creation will be impeded, consumer demand will fall and economic growth will be stunted.

Assuming an investment of P100,000 creates one ordinary job, the budget deficit and NPAs conceivably would mean a loss of over six million jobs. Worse, continued borrowing to cover the deficit for non-productive government operations will elbow out private borrowers from the banks' lending windows. This leads to further loss of jobs and a rise in criminality due to lay-offs.

The deficit will continue to balloon unless government projects whose plans and specifications are vendor-driven with padded budgets are stopped.

However, the economy can be taken off this path before it spins out of control like a plane whose engines have conked out. The budget deficit must be addressed decisively not by new loans but by prudent resource management.

The biggest problem is the inability of the government to appreciate information and communication technology in a strategic sense. Everybody agrees that ICT networks reduce paperwork and hasten the speed of doing things.

Yet every government office insists on stand-alone projects, causing duplication of existing facilities and multiplication of expenses. The prevailing tendency is to ignore the fact that technological advances are best exploited through networking.

To our mind, the Department of Budget and Management should have a database to gather, collate and crosscheck budget requests whether or not a project is already or could be in a network shared by several agencies. The officials concerned should strictly adhere to some guidelines on off-budget project financing like the BOT scheme, cost saving and revenue enhancement to stop the ballooning budget deficit.

In the process, opportunities for corruption will be minimized. There would be less corruption if there were fewer padded budgets and cash disbursements.

It's also time the government adopted an offsetting arrangement as far as practicable in lieu of cash disbursement, which is another good way to exploit ICT advances.

—FRANK WENCESLAO,
92 Mindanao Avenue,
Quezon City

'Nay

THAT'S an abbreviation of "Inay" or "Mother," used as an expression of alarm and dread for a wide range of situations, for example seeing the dentist pulling over the drill to your face or turning into a street and realizing you're trapped in a traffic gridlock.

I am certain the origins of the expression are to be found in domestic situations. A child gets his or her report card and goes, "Nay!" knowing how Nanay is going to react when she sees the scarlet letters.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A few years ago when I was doing research with the Health Action Information Network (HAIN) on adolescent sexuality, I was amused to find burly male teenagers explaining what was keeping them from drugs and sex: *"Gagalit si Nanay."* Mom will get angry, no, a better translation should read, "Mom will be furious."

Given those research findings, I was not surprised to read a press release from the University of Minnesota, issued just last week, with the headline: "Closeness to mother can delay first instance of sexual intercourse among younger teens."

I'm going to give you the entire first paragraph of the press release, which summarizes the latest findings: "Teenagers are less likely to start having sex when their mothers are involved in their lives, have a close relationship with them and stress the importance of education, according to new findings from the largest survey ever conducted with adolescents in the United States."

The press release was referring to the National Longitudinal Survey on Adolescent Health, which has been following 3,000 pairs of mothers and their teenagers over a number of years. The survey was coordinated by the University of Minnesota's Center for Adolescent Health and Development Program, headed by Dr. Robert Blum.

The press release quotes Blum: "Kids will pay attention to their parents' values and beliefs on sex. But talk alone does not get the message through." The survey found that warning teenagers about the dangers of early sex or telling them that they shouldn't have sex doesn't stop young people from becoming sexually active.

Last year I attended a conference on "Asian Youth at Risk" where Blum was a speaker and was quite impressed with his presentation, which drew on years of research into adolescents in the United States. Blum talked extensively about the need for social support to help adolescents reduce their exposure to risks.

During the open forum, someone in the audience asked if children of divorced or separated parents had more problems. Blum's reply was striking: the research shows that what is important for children is that there is at least one "accessible" parent, someone the kids feel they can approach to ask questions or to talk about problems.

Blum likes to use the word "connectedness" to refer to this accessibility, and the latest findings from his research suggest that mothers play an important role with this "connectedness."

There are, however, some interesting differences based on age and gender. The survey found that for younger teens and older teenage boys, what was significant was a feeling of closeness to mothers, and a perception that the mother was warm and caring.

For teenage girls, regardless of their age, what made a difference, in terms of postponing sex, was having a mother with a higher level of education. The mother's religiosity, interestingly enough, did not make a difference.

I know all these are American findings but I suspect our mothers play a similar, if not stronger, role in the lives of our adolescents. In the HAIN study, I speculated that the mother's strong influence might draw from an older tradition of a mother's strong parenting role, now made stronger because so many women are also working mothers.

Thus, the "fear" of the mother is based on a sense of *hiya* or shame: 'Nay works so hard and so I can't let her down by getting pregnant (or, for males, getting someone pregnant). What's so disastrous about a pregnancy is that it often means dropping out of school, which would be the ultimate disappointment for mothers, especially for those who have slaved away to keep their children in school.

We need to do more work in the Philippines to look into this connectedness. Perhaps the University of San Carlos' Office of Population Studies can take this up. Researchers there have been following 1,000 "pairs" of mothers and their children in Cebu City since 1987, interviewing them periodically on health care and child rearing.

I'm sure some readers are wondering, as I do, about the American study's findings for the role of fathers but the latest report from Minnesota does not refer to fathers. Now, if some of you are really interested, not just in fathers' roles but in adolescent health in general, you might want to catch the second annual convention of the Society of Adolescent Medicine of the Philippines on Sept. 16 and 17 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. It's open to non-physicians and will cost you an arm and a leg—P1,500—but it might well be worth it. Call 373-3461 or 0917-431-3800 for more information. Or you can e-mail gigcc@quickweb.com.ph.

'Nay, I almost forgot, Blum's going to be a speaker at that conference, scheduled for the morning of Sept. 16. In that morning session, Dr. Corie Raymundo of the UP Population Institute will also be sharing some preliminary findings from the latest survey on Filipino adolescent sexuality.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

No RP-Saudi labor pact

THIS refers to the article titled "Senate to probe OFW deals after Saudis cut wages" which appeared in the INQUIRER on Sept. 3, 2002.

The article reported that an alleged agreement signed by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and her Saudi counterpart was the subject of a Senate inquiry.

I would like to reiterate here that no such agreement was signed in Saudi Arabia by the visiting labor secretary and her counterpart. As a matter of fact, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not signed any labor agreement with any country, for the simple reason that its labor market, like any other market, is determined by the interplay of market forces, and the dominant sector in the Saudi labor market is the private sector represented by the Saudi National Recruitment Committee.

The visit of Secretary Sto. Tomas has added another stone in strengthening RP-Saudi relations, especially our labor relations. In that meeting, the two sides achieved full understanding and cooperation, with the visiting labor officials on one hand gaining a clear understanding of how the Saudi labor market operates and with their Saudi counterparts on the other hand taking note of the concerns of the Philippine government with regard to the OFWs.

—SALEH MOH'D. AL-GHAMDI,
ambassador, Royal Embassy of
Saudi Arabia

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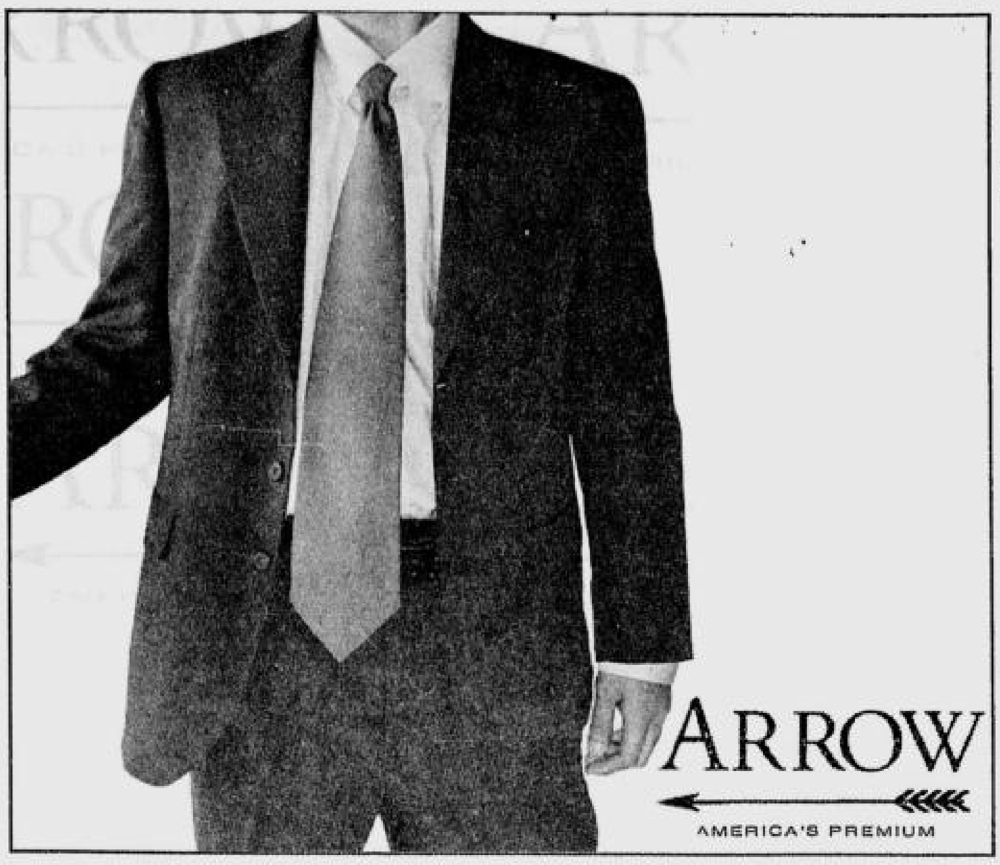
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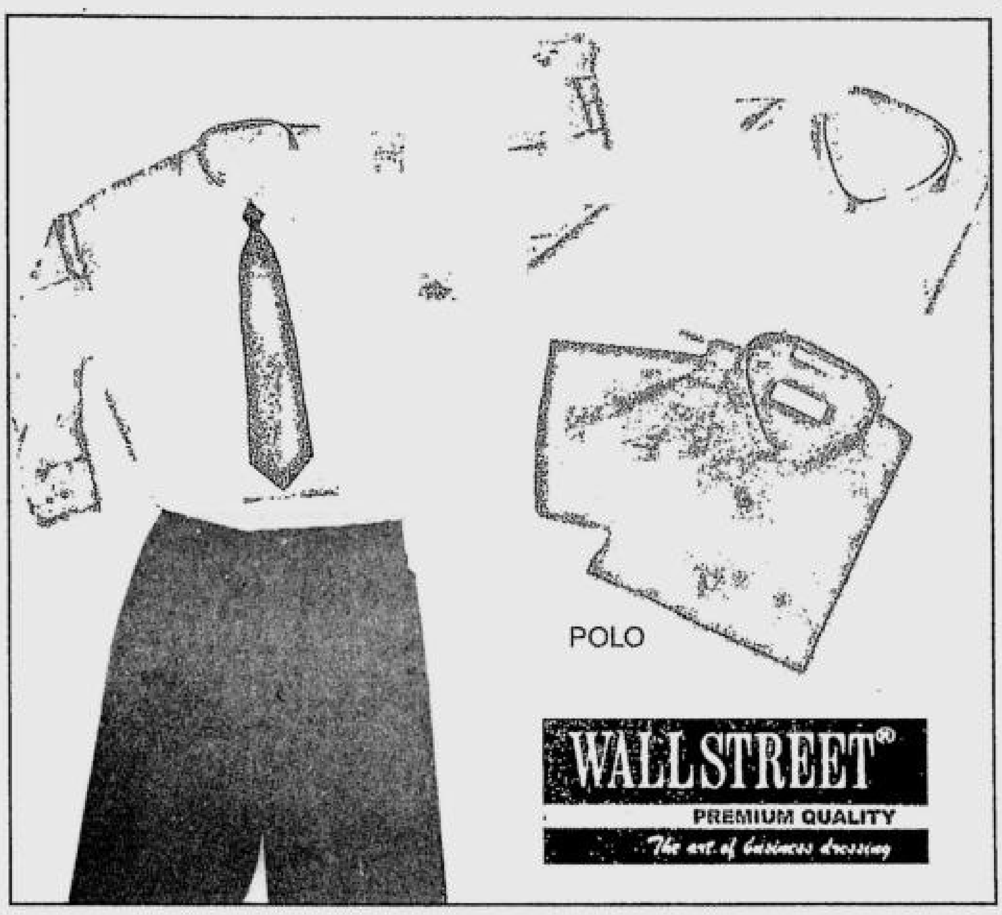
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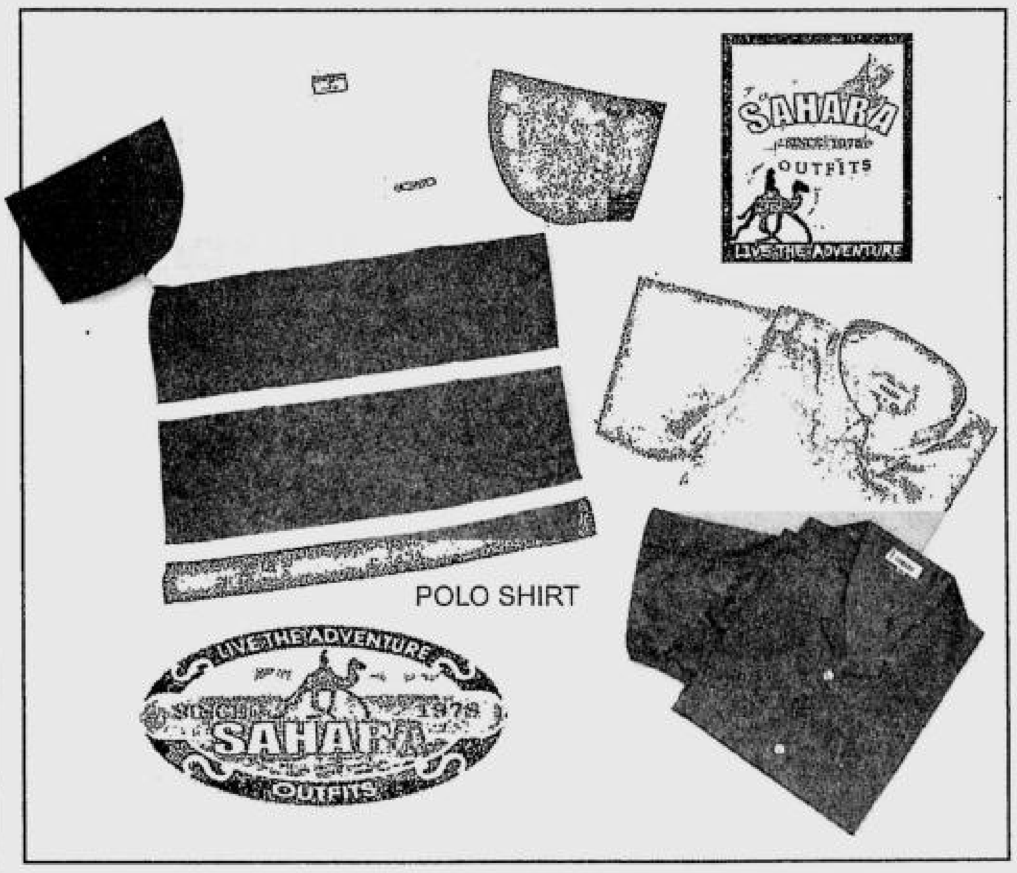
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World remembers the unforgettable

TOKYO—From an isolated research facility at the South Pole to the trading floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the world on Wednesday remembered the terrorist attacks one year ago that killed not only thousands of Americans, but hundreds of foreigners as well.

As New York slept, the day began on the other side of the globe with a tree-planting ceremony in New Zealand, one of many held on the grounds of those US embassies around the world that remained open despite the threat of a new attack.

"This date has been forever etched into our memories," Prime Minister Helen Clark said. "The world will never forget the tragedy which took place. Those attacks were acts of utterly incomprehensible violence which shook us all profoundly."

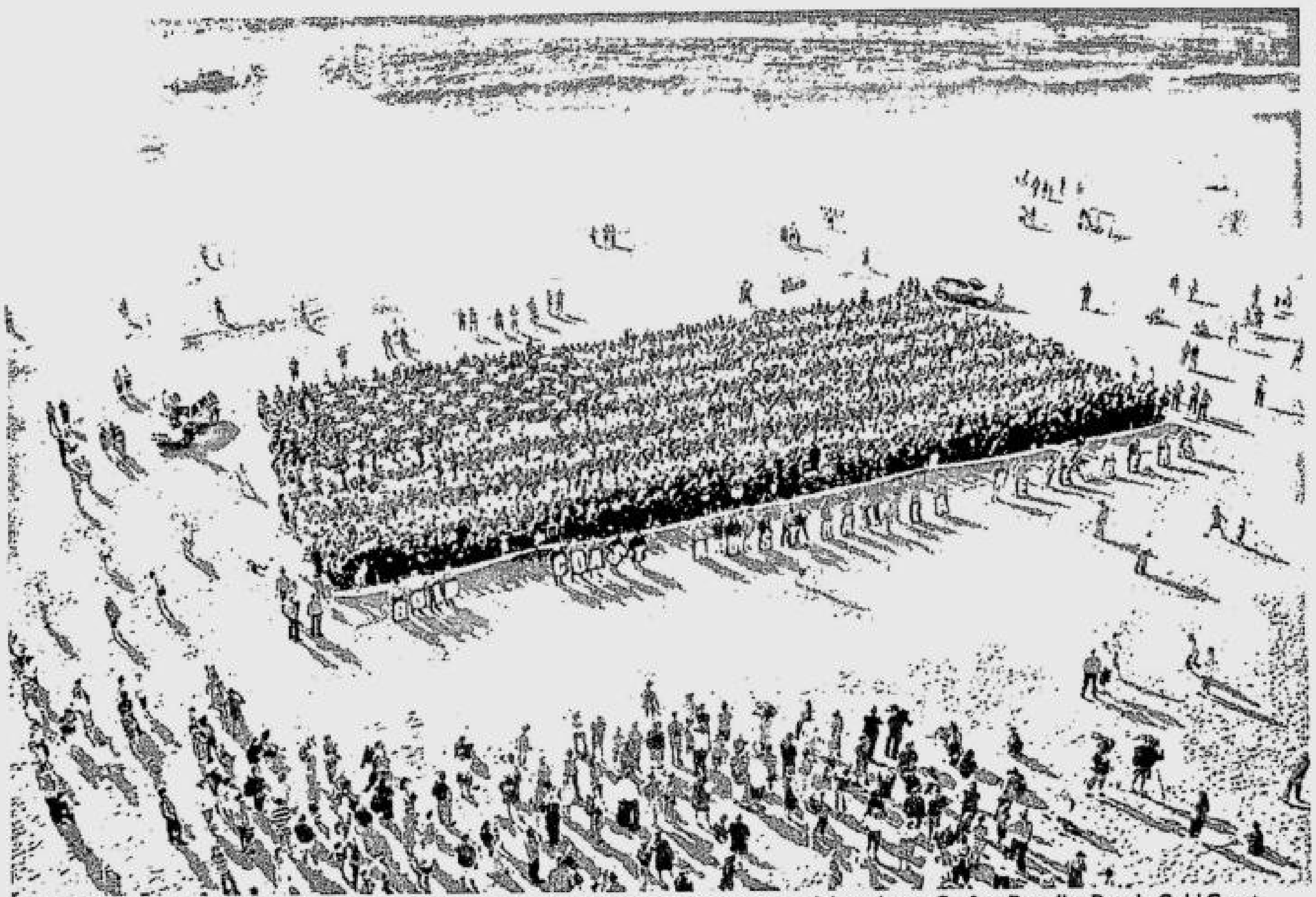
Throughout much of the world, there was a shared feeling of loss.

Nearly 500 foreigners are believed to have died in the attacks. Among them were 67 Britons, two dozen Japanese, 10 Australians. All told, 91 countries lost citizens.

In Afghanistan, the country apart from the United States most affected by Sept. 11, a small piece of wreckage from the World Trade Center was buried under the flagpole at the US Embassy.

Acting US Ambassador Brad Hanson announced that Sept. 11 would henceforth be known as Patriot Day and, speaking on behalf of US President George W. Bush, urged Americans to take one moment of silence each year on this date to remember the dead.

But Wednesday's remembrances went beyond the mourning of lost compatriots.



THE FLAG of the United States is replicated by over three thousand people at a memorial service on Surfers Paradise Beach, Gold Coast, Australia, Sept. 11 to honor the people killed in last year's terrorist attacks on the United States.

GETTTY IMAGES

At Australia's Surfers Paradise, a popular vacation resort, thousands of people led by firefighters and ambulance staff took to the beach to form a human stars and stripes flag.

"It's a sacred time," said Barry Brazel, of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, adding that the day holds a special meaning for firefighters of all nationalities.

Marking the day also took precedence over business—if just for a moment.

Stock markets across Asia opened with brief observances and moments of silence. In Tokyo, screens on the exchange trading floor carried a message of renewed prayer and condolence. European markets were expected to follow suit when they opened later in the day.

Replacing the cries of shock and fear that rang out one year ago, Mozart's "Requiem" was heard in New Zealand and Japan. Throughout the day, 180 choirs in 20 time zones were to perform a "Rolling Requiem" to mark the moment when the first hijacked plane flew into the World Trade Center's north tower.

US researchers at the South Pole also played the music at their isolated base.

On the eve of the anniversary, two powerful beams of light were projected into the sky over Paris to honor the memory of victims. The lights were to be projected again Wednesday night.

"With this gesture, it will be the whole Parisian community who will pay homage to New Yorkers, and express its solidarity and its attachment to common values," Paris city hall said in a statement.

Most remembrances were more personal statements.

In Hong Kong, a pub owner hoisted three US flags outside his bar, defying orders to remove them because they were on public property. Owner Mike Wilkinson, a Briton, said his wife's cousin worked in one of the twin towers but was late for work and missed the jetliners crashing into them.

Not all saw the day as a time to mourn.

The Sept. 11 attacks were remembered as "God's punishment" among Iraqis fearful at the possibility the United States might attack to topple their president.

"Events like Sept. 11 are sad, but it is an opportunity for the American people to feel what bombing could do to nations," said Ali Ahmed, a 47-year-old who owns a Baghdad stationery shop. "America has proven it has no respect for nations by wanting to change the government in Iraq. How would an American feel toward somebody who wants to change his government?"

Family and friends of an Australian who allegedly fought with the Taliban called for his release from a US military prison in Cuba.

"My son had nothing to do with the Sept. 11 attacks, it is time he was released," said Terry Hicks, the father of accused Taliban fighter David Hicks. "It is essential for justice that the Americans release David immediately."

Hicks, 27, was captured in Afghanistan in early December. The Australian government suspects him of training with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

And overshadowing the memorials was a now familiar fear.

Citing "credible and specific" threats, some US embassies in Asia, Africa and the Middle East were closed, and US military bases and embassies in Europe enforced tightened security. *AP*

Only UN has legitimate right to act on threat to world peace—Annan

LONDON—Only the UN Security Council can provide "the unique legitimacy that one needs to be able to act" when "trying to deal with the broader threat to international peace and security," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told the BBC on Wednesday.

"Obviously even in the UN charter individual governments have the inherent right of self defence when they are attacked," Annan said on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

"But to contain the terrorists I submit that you need that essential international cooperation to make it effective... The threat we are dealing with is much broader. You need the United Nations to be effective.

"When one is trying to deal with the broader threat to international peace and security there is no alternative but to go through the council. It is only the council that can provide the unique legitimacy that one needs to be able to act."

Regarding the threat of unilateral military action by the United States against Iraq, Annan stressed that the "council should have the political will to tackle the issue."

Any action, he said, should be "multilateral, sanctioned by the Security Council."

US President George W. Bush was Thursday due to state his case for action against Iraq in a speech to the UN General Assembly in New York.

He was expected to urge the United Nations to end Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's "decade of defiance" of UN disarmament rules, warning nuclear arms could soon be within the Iraqi leader's grasp, according to a senior White House official, speaking Tuesday.

Speaking on the same BBC radio program as Annan, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton said the United States was not obliged under international law to seek a fresh UN resolution on Iraq before launching military action.

"Whether the president decides to seek another resolution from the Security Council is a matter of political judgment, but it's certainly not a matter of international legal necessity," Bolton said.

He added: "In terms of the international community, we have an obvious right to national self-defense which is enshrined in article 51 of the United Nations charter and, specifically in the case of Iraq we have a situation where Iraq has been for 10 years in flagrant violation of the Security Council resolution 687 giving us the authority to act under resolution 678." *AFP*

PAKISTANI protesters chant slogans during an anti-US demonstration against a possible attack on Iraq, Sept. 10, in Karachi, Pakistan. The protesters demanded the UN do more to stop potential harm to the Iraqi people.

GETTTY IMAGES

ORTHODOX Jewish men pray "Selihot," or special prayers for forgiveness, at the Western Wall, Sept. 10, in the Old City of Jerusalem, Israel.

GETTY IMAGES

Arafat sets Palestinian elections

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Wednesday called presidential and legislative elections for Jan. 20 under international and domestic pressure to reform his government.

The move, announced by the parliamentary speaker, turned Arafat's administration into a transitional government and some Palestinian officials said it would avert a parliamentary vote of confidence in his cabinet planned for later in the day.

Legislators had predicted an uphill battle for approval of the cabinet by the Palestinian Legislative Council, where Arafat—who is widely expected to be reelected—has faced criticism for not doing enough to overhaul the government.

It was not clear when or if parliament would be dissolved. *Reuters*

Accident or sabotage? India grapples with train derailment

RAFIGANJ, India—There were conflicting theories Tuesday on what caused an express train on its way from Calcutta to New Delhi to jump the tracks, sending one car plunging into a river and leaving two others dangling from a bridge. At least 80 passengers were killed and 170 injured.

The crash occurred in an area of eastern India where communist rebels are active, leading some authorities to suspect sabotage. But at the site, Insp. General of Police Neelmani said: "The railway authorities have jumped to a conclusion without even caring to verify the ground realities." Neelmani uses a single name.

In New Delhi, India's Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani was quick to say the derailment was an accident, rebutting Cabinet colleagues who suspected sabotage. Other politicians cited the distressed state of India's aging rail system as a possible factor.

The Rajdhani Express, a luxury air-conditioned train, became a mountain of twisted metal minutes after it derailed on a bridge in the remote countryside, in the eastern Bihar state Monday night.

By Tuesday evening, 67 bodies had been recovered from the wreckage and 13 others who were injured died in hospitals in three nearby towns, the area's top railway official, K.K. Saxena, told reporters. *AP*

HK skyline shrouded by record smog

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong skyline is one of the world's most spectacular—when you can see it.

Despite Hong Kong's pledge to clean up its air and water, the territory found itself shrouded again as pollution set new records this week, making many of its glass bank towers barely visible and prompting authorities to warn some people to stay inside.

Many here were quick to point fingers across the border at the smoke-belching factories in mainland China's Guangdong province.

They are often cited as one of the worst obstacles preventing Hong Kong from making more speedy progress on Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa's plan to clean up the former British colony.

"No matter how good we are, they still have to solve the other half of the problem," said Ng Cho-nam, a university professor and president of The Conservancy Association.

Hong Kong's air pollution recently set two records—on Aug. 28 and Monday—in the community of Tung Chung near Chek Lap Kok airport. The first was an Air Pollution Index reading of 181, followed by 185, on a scale in which anything over 100 is considered very high. *AP*

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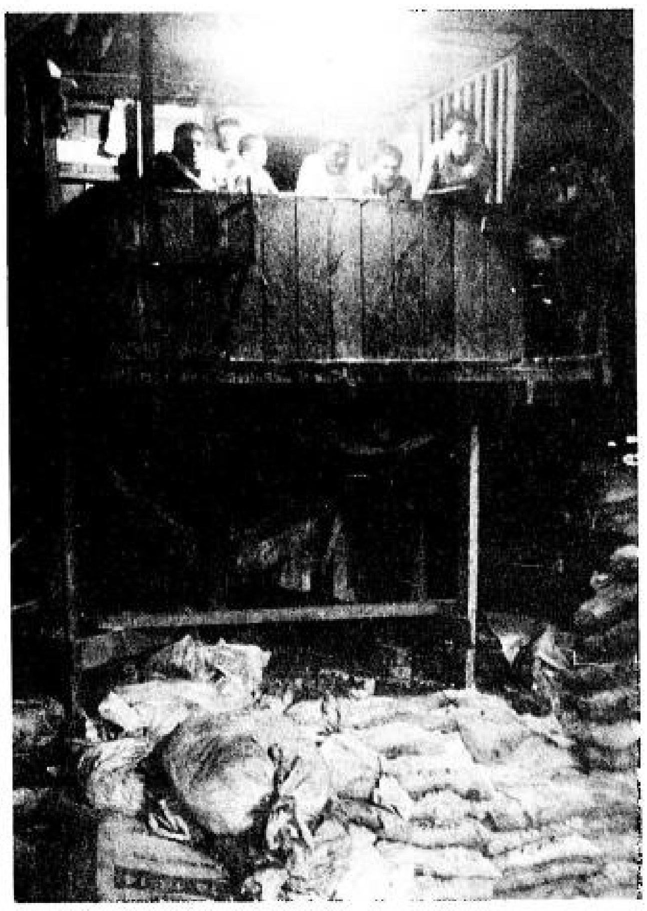

EDWIN BACASMAS

WAITING GAME
Mining laborers play the waiting game in a shed near a mine portal on Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley.

Cops hold secret talks with 'jueteng' operators

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Clandestine negotiations between police officials and gambling lords in Central Luzon occurred two weeks before authorities announced this week the "100-percent jueteng-free" target in the region, a source from the jueteng community here said.

The talks, the source said, came after Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. ordered last week a fresh crackdown against illegal gambling.

The source said a top police official in Pampanga, who was not named, met with suspected jueteng financier Melchor Caluag to convince him to stop running the illegal numbers game for an "indefinite period."

The source said Caluag, also the barangay captain of Dolores here, was given a "mix of warning and appeal."

Caluag, after being warned about a succession of raids and court cases, was also asked to note the embarrassment the police were getting for their failure to curb jueteng.

The source said Caluag did not tell if the police official made the appeal to save the reputation of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is from Pampanga where jueteng was rampant.

The source said other police officials might have made the same deals with other jueteng operators in the region, having heard Caluag talk with some of his fellow financiers over the phone to consult with them.

The source could not tell if jueteng financiers also met to discuss the order.

The last time they reportedly met was in Dec. in a hotel in Quezon City.

On Tuesday, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, announced that jueteng operations have stopped in the province.

But the declaration appeared to be only partly true, a check by the INQUIRER in villages where the game was usually rampant showed.

In Masantol, Macabebe and Apalit towns, jueteng bets were still being collected, the winning pairs reportedly drawn in moving boats or jeepneys.

In San Fernando, the base of Caluag, jueteng has stopped. Instead, a number of jueteng collectors were seen gathering bets for the government-sanctioned lotto to compensate for lost income.

Asked if collecting for the lotto was a cover for the illegal numbers game, many volunteered to open their bags to show they did not carry jueteng paraphernalia.

A few local officials and policemen began feeling the pinch of the order.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a local official said he had no more money for expenses for "KBL" or *kasal, binyag* and *libing* (wedding, baptism and burial). Politicians are said to receive a share of the jueteng protection money. Policemen refer to the amount as "for the boys," which trickles down to them weekly.

Fr. Deogracias Galang, director of the Social Action Center of Pampanga, expressed skepticism about the police's target.

"Are you kidding?" he said, when asked if the target was attainable.

Amid official announcements against illegal gambling and despite actual crackdowns, jueteng had never been stopped in Central Luzon during the more than three decades that it existed.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police director, denied the secret talks.

He said only the police's heightened anti-illegal gambling operations, including the rising number of court cases filed against gambling lords, forced jueteng operators to stop.

American found dead in room of Cebu hotel

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—An American was found dead early yesterday inside his hotel room along Sanciangko Street in this city.

Police, however, dismissed any possibility of a foul play in the death of Harold Craig Moore, 41, of Colorado.

Moore, a retired member of the US Marines and a computer programmer, was found dead at about 9:30 a.m. by his caregiver, Maricris Benignos.

Benignos said he found Moore lying face down on the bed inside room 503 of the Cebu View Tourist Inn where he had been staying since June this year.

She said she immediately sought police assistance when she noticed that the American was dead.

SPO1 Jay Yballe, a homicide investigator, said Moore might have died due to heart failure.

He said Benignos and Moore's friend Thomas Boland told police that Moore had a heart ailment. Boland was staying in a separate room of the hotel.

His doctor had reportedly told Moore that he only had six months to live and advised him to quit drinking and smoking. But the American did not heed his doctor's advice.

Police also found several medicines for heart ailment inside Moore's room.

Based on his passport, Moore arrived in Cebu in February as a tourist. Yballe said Moore just relied on his pension for his daily needs.

Yballe said Boland had contacted Moore's estranged wife in Colorado but she instructed him to just cremate her husband's body.

But Yballe said they would only proceed with the cremation if Moore's wife sent them a written instruction. Moore's body is now at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes.

Probe of abuses of Boy Scouts urged

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Department of Education (DepEd) in Western Mindanao ordered an investigation of reports about some gay scoutmasters sexually abusing young Boy Scouts.

Director Ibrahim Albar said the reports were so alarming that an investigation should be immediately conducted.

Albar ordered officials from the city schools division and the local scout chapter to start looking into the reports.

The reports came in amid preparations for the Scouting Month in October.

Albar admitted that it was not his first time to receive reports about sexual misconduct by scoutmasters.

In 2000, a Boy Scout accused his scoutmaster of child abuse.

The case is still pending in court.

"Every time there is a scouting event, boy scouts are afraid or ashamed to report the behavior of gay scoutmasters especially during night time when they roam around and secretly offer P500 to the Boy Scouts in exchange for fleshly pleasure," Albar said.

Albar said that aside from the sexual misconduct, he also wanted reports on increasing drinking habits among Boy Scouts investigated.

"We are afraid that someday we will have drunkard boy scouts. We have to be vigilant on this. This is a very serious matter," he said. *Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Iloilo/Cebu	P 1249	P 2498		
Iloilo/Clark	P 2699	P 5398		
Iloilo/Davao	P 2199	P 4398	P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Bacolod	P 1799	P 3598	P 2099	P 3799
Manila/Butuan	P 2349	P 4698	P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Cebu	P 1849	P 3698	P 2099	P 3799
Manila/Cagayan de Oro	P 2349	P 4698	P 2099	P 3799
Manila/Davao	P 2288	P 4576	P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Dumaguete			P 1549	P 2799
Manila/Iloilo	P 1599	P 3198	P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Kalibo	P 1999	P 3998	P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Roxas	P 1799	P 3598	P 1599	P 2799
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ROUNDUP

Tagaytay workshops

THE DEVELOPMENT Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and the Creative Media Professionals Guild of Asia and the Pacific signed an agreement to jointly conduct the Tagaytay Film Broadcast and Creative Workshops to be held in October. The Tagaytay Workshop's SemBreak will offer the courses Video as an Effective Imaging Tool for Corporations and Institutions, Scriptwriting for Institutional Documentaries, How to be an Effective On-cam Talent, Basic Skills Photography, Winning Light Design for Video and Film, Production Design for Features, Basic Editing for Drama, Digital Post Production Editing Methods, Advanced Design Course for Newspaper, Corporate Communications and Crisis Media Management, Appreciating the Creative Process for Executives. The workshops had their first 150 graduates last summer.

"Smugglers' paradise?"

Agusan del Norte Rep. Leovigildo Banaag and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. sounded off an alarm over the reported rampant use of the Butuan City port as entry point for smuggled rice and other "hot" goods that result in millions of pesos worth of lost government revenue. "We cannot allow Butuan City port to become another smugglers' paradise," Banaag said in a statement. He said his office received reports of a smuggling operation at the Butuan Bay on Sept. 9. A cargo ship named MV Montesol was anchored in the middle of the bay discharging "hot animal feeds" earlier declared as "soya beans." Pichay and Banaag have alerted Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southcom Chief and the Bureau of Customs "to intercept the goods and bring to courts the perpetrators."

Kid-friendly Bukidnon

Children will now get top priority in Bukidnon as the province recently launched its child-friendly movement, in cooperation with the Australian government and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri Jr. presented to Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce and Unicef Representative in the Philippines Dr. Terrel Hill the Provincial Development and Investment Plan for Children. Zubiri said Bukidnon's school system will track and bring all children in the community to schools. Barangays will protect children, and give universal immunization, pre-natal care and education. Vice Gov. Alex Calingasan said Bukidnon's local governments will make and enforce laws to promote and protect children's welfare.

Albay's wizard

LEGAZPI CITY—An Albayano expert in electronics application will represent the country in the 10-day International Skills Challenge in Jakarta on Oct. 1-10. Nes Rodel Vinas, 18, finished a Consumer Electronic course at the Technical Education and Skills Development Administration Albay Training Center in Salugan, Camalig, Albay. He bagged the gold medal during the Philippine National Skills Competition held in December in Davao City.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Plan vs smuggling

LEGAZPI CITY—To curb the proliferation of illegal drugs in Bicol, especially in Masbate, allegedly through smuggling aboard inter-island vessels, Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police director, proposed a pre-board screening for all sea vessels. Galang said the pre-board screening in all seaports could reduce criminality caused by drug addiction and the distribution of illegal drugs in Bicol's island provinces. The proposed scheme, he said, will be similar to the one applied in all airports where machines screen cargo and passengers.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Disaster management

LEGAZPI CITY—Two disaster management officials of Albay are set to leave for a more intense management training in Japan on how to handle disaster situations, especially those brought about by volcano eruptions. Cedric Daep, Albay disaster management officer, and Jayson Aragon from the Office of Civil Defense based in Camp General Simeon Ola here, got a study grant to enhance their expertise in disaster prevention.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sports rally

LEGAZPI CITY—Albay youths will join the nationwide torch relay in connection with the country's participation in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea on Sept. 29 to Oct. 14. Albay Sangguniang Kabataan Federation chair and board member Jesciel Richard Salceda said they would support the activity as their share in boosting the morale of the Philippine Team set to do battle in the next Asian Games. The Albay Torch Ralay is scheduled on Sunday, wherein a group from Sorsogon is expected to arrive in Daraga at 11 a.m.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Maguindanao mayor

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections proclaimed former Army Col. Vivencio Bataga as winner of the 2001 mayoral race in Parang, Maguindanao on Tuesday after a special board of canvassers went through the contested election returns. Bataga got 5,405 votes against reelectionist mayor Mike Biruar's 4,459 votes. "My proclamation proves that the charges against us were not true," he said referring to charges of anomaly against his camp. Bataga said he will work harder to further develop the town.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

MILF brod's kin held

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The alleged younger brother of Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu was arrested inside the Sarangani provincial jail in Alabel town on Tuesday after a detained suspected drug pusher from Cotabato City tagged him as a supplier. Sarangani police director Supt. Willie Dangane told reporters here that Nasser Kabalu, 32, together with his two other relatives, was visiting suspected drug dealers Teng and Samina Tongkay, when he was arrested. Dangane said a subsequent search found that Nasser was carrying what appeared to be shabu. But Nasser said he was simply visiting his relatives when police arrested him without valid reasons. He denied yielding shabu during the search.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DEREGULATION

Rural power co-ops to enjoy autonomy

BAGUIO CITY—Can President Macapagal-Arroyo trust the 119 rural electric cooperatives (RECs) to efficiently distribute electricity to the provinces?

Chartered rural electric cooperatives seem to be proof that she can.

The National Electrification Administration on Monday designated the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) as the country's first of a series of chartered cooperatives—power distributors in the provinces that are allowed by NEA to operate autonomously to protect themselves from a deregulated power industry.

Although still supervised by NEA, the new chartered cooperatives will be allowed to make their own rules on fiscal and systems management to suit their markets and the towns' economic conditions, said Fr. Francisco Silva, NEA administrator.

In effect, these chartered RECs will grant rural electrification more "flexibility in warding off buy-out attempts from private investors, without affecting their inherent missionary function of energizing poor communities," said Gerardo Verzosa, Beneco general manager.

Because of NEA's strict fiscal rules, Beneco has been listed among the country's potentially flawed RECs for violating regulations that control corporate salaries, purchases and transactions involving power transmission and fees, Silva said.

The rules were made to guarantee NEA a good return-on-investments from RECs that loan operational and systems upgrading funds through the agency.

Ms Macapagal condoned more than P17 billion of these debts, in accordance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) of 2001.

Silva, in a Beneco employees' assembly here this week, acknowledged that he himself violated the same rules as manager of the country's top RECs—the Cebu Electric Cooperative (Cebeco) I, II and III.

Luis Manuel Corral, secretary general of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives, said by cleansing the RECs' accounting slate, rural power rates in Luzon would immediately go down by an average of 45 centavos.

Power rates in the Visayas would be reduced by 38 centavos, while Mindanao rates would be lowered by 33 centavos.

Last week, Beneco members had approved a 12-centavo reduction in its power rates, when its debts were condoned.

In a 10-point power agenda set by Malacañang in July, Ms Macapagal pushed for the merger or consolidation of "inefficient" power cooperatives because of their impact on the electricity industry.

Silva met the general managers of the RECs in Abra, Mt. Province and Ifugao on Sunday.

Verzosa said these are RECs whose market economy base is "weak" compared to Baguio, and are therefore candidates for consolidation under Ms Macapagal's 10-point power agenda.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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AIM
Soldiers take a break around a mortar aimed at Abu Sayyaf positions in Sulu.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Braganza says gov't to revive peace talks

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Anticipating an increasingly "tough negotiation" toward peace, government peace brokers have presented their proposed peace framework to the National Democratic Front for the NDF's review, according to Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza.

But Braganza, a member of the government panel negotiating peace with the NDF, admitted that he was not certain whether the NDF would accept their framework.

"If we talk about peace, we always face a tough negotiation. But if we are really sincere about peace, hopefully we can hurdle it," he told reporters here Tuesday.

He confirmed that the "single document" which was presented to the NDF, as directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, contained all the important items in the agenda, including the 10-point bilateral peace agreement signed in 1992.

Allaying concerns expressed earlier by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and some militant groups that the previous agreements would not be honored, Braganza assured that "nothing has been changed in the content of The Hague agreements."

Braganza said the government was hoping that ongoing backdoor negotiations would soon be elevated to formal peace talks because "to revive the peace talks is the political solution to poverty."

"There was an attempt to put a six-month time frame on the peace negotiations but it failed because the government wanted to look at the much bigger picture and not piece by piece. The negotiators wanted to discuss everything at one time, especially now that there are so many issues involved," he said.

Earlier, members of the clergy in Northern Luzon called on the government and the NDF to return to the negotiating table and to implement the 10-point bilateral peace agreement of 1992.

They also denounced how "monopoly capitalist globalization" has gripped the country.

Priests and nuns from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera, who attended the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Conference here, issued a resolution urging the government, the NDF and "other warring parties to implement peace agreements that they have mutually entered into."

They also urged the groups to "direct (their) efforts against the root cause of our sufferings."

Ocampo urged the government to abandon "militaristic" solutions to the rebellion. *Gia Damaso-Dumo and Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't to earn ₱18M from mines

DAVAO CITY—The national government will earn about P18.72 million in six months from the 15 percent production share of small-scale mining operations in Diwalwal, Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Horacio Ramos, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said in two weeks, the first check of P120,000 from the projected revenue would be in government hands.

The government estimates that 300 tons of gold would be extracted from the mines without the use of explosives. Normal production, Ramos said, is 750 tons per day.

Ramos told President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a briefing, that the projected revenue would increase when large-scale mining is allowed after six months.

The revenue would depend on gold ore evaluation. Under a contract agreement [illegible] the government, small-scale miners would get 85 percent in service fees.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which would be represented by the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) gets 15 percent.

The royalty for indigenous peoples will be kept by the NRDC and will be released when the Diwalwal area is issued a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title.

For social development, Ramos said the priority project is the tailings disposal dam, which the NRDC is building through a P50 million loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines. The tailings [illegible] will have a waste capacity of 750 tons [illegible] day.

Large-scale mining will [illegible] allowed in Diwalwal after six months or after the President declares the 8,100-hectare area as a national Minerals Reservation Area.

The 8,100 hectares will be carved out from the Timber License Agreement 43 of the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines.

The 724-hectare active mining area will be used exclusively for mining activities, mineral processing plants and as a common tailings disposal system. The President earlier announced that she will declare the 8,100 hectare as a minerals reservation [illegible] Oct. 11. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mind[illegible]reau*

Gov loses support of vice gov, mayors

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A political crisis looms in Antique after the vice governor and majority of the province's municipal mayors withdrew their support from Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-P[illegible]

In a resolution Sept. 6, the officials said [illegible] used P1[illegible] development funds for [illegible]litical reasons" and for "political intervention."

The resolution said the release of the funds was "selective."

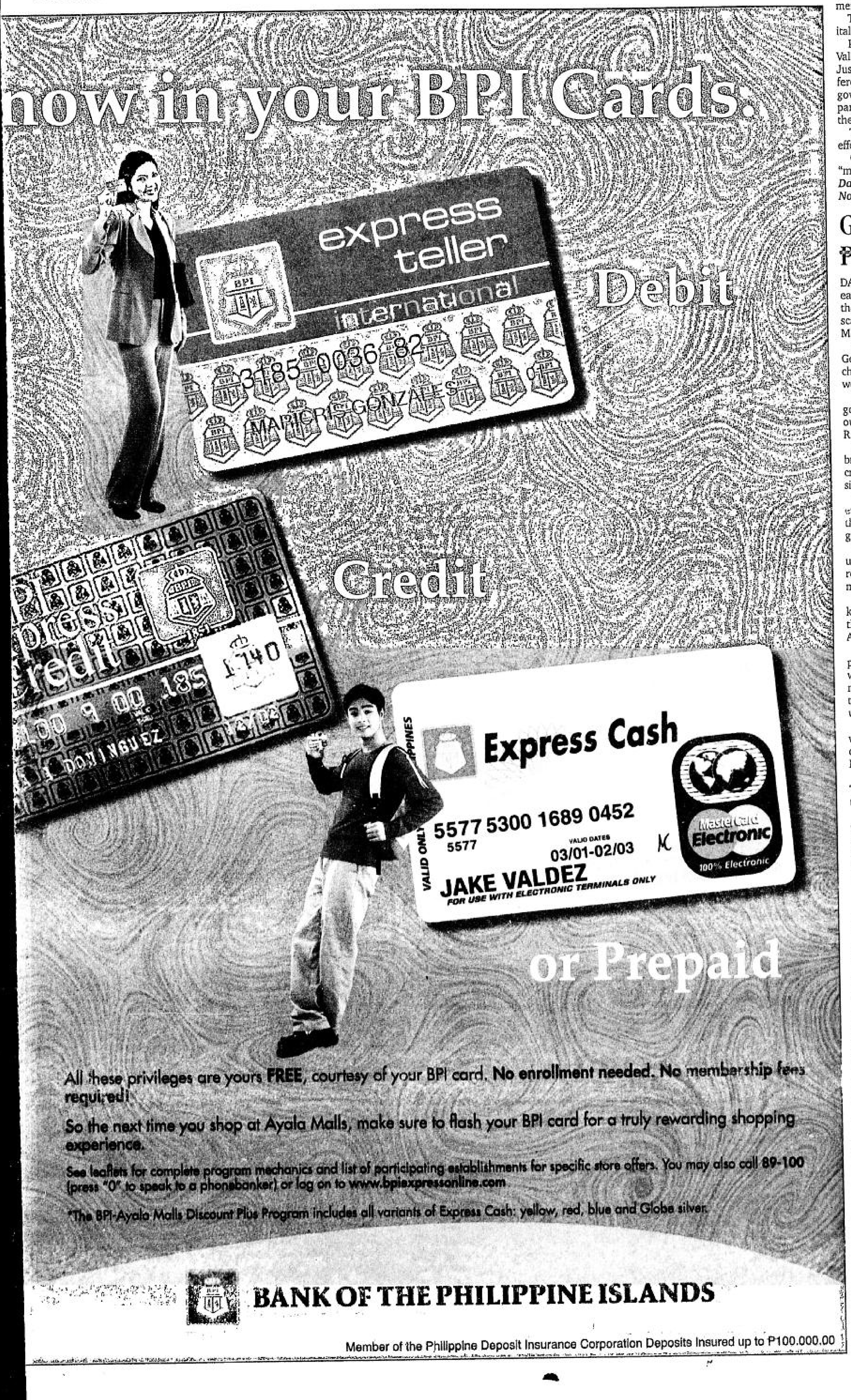
The resolution was signed by Vice Gov. Roberto Operiano, 10 of the 18 municipal mayors, three vice mayors and a town councilor.

Operiano said he "does not agree with the way she (Perez) has been managing the province."

The signatories included Mayors Mary Jean Te (Libertad), Vicente Rendon (Sebaste), Reynaldo Pollicar (Anini-y), Elizabeth Coloso (San Remigio), Andres Magluyan (Laua-an), Mary Joyce Roquero, (Valderrama), Jhonny Flores Bacongallo (Patnongon), Eliseo Magbanua (Bugasong), Jose Maghari (Barbaza) and Aida Alpas (Culasi).

Perez denied the allegations. "The funds will be released to all municipalities," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

She said several of the mayors, who were "pressured" to sign the resolution, apologized to her. She did not name them.



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RE: REVISED INTERNAL RULES OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN

RESOLUTION

Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Revision of the Rules of Court, the Court Resolved to APPROVE with modifications the Revised Internal Rules of the Sandiganbayan.

These Rules shall take effect on October 1, 2002 following their publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

August 28, 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

REYNATO S. PUNO
Associate Justice

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Associate Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

(on leave)
ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

ANTONIO T. CARPIO
Associate Justice

MA. ALICIA AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ
Associate Justice

RENATO C. CORONA
Associate Justice

REVISED INTERNAL RULES of the SANDIGANBAYAN

PURSUANT to Section 9 of Presidential Decree No. 1606, as amended, the Sandiganbayan adopts and promulgates the following REVISED INTERNAL RULES OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN.

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULE I
TITLE, COVERAGE AND CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 1. *Title of the Rules.* - These Rules shall be known and cited as the REVISED INTERNAL RULES OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN.

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* - These Rules shall apply to the internal operations of the Sandiganbayan.

The Rules of Court, resolutions, circulars, and other issuances promulgated by the Supreme Court relating to or affecting the Regional Trial Courts and the Court of Appeals, insofar as applicable, shall govern all actions and proceedings filed with the Sandiganbayan.

SEC. 3. *Construction.* – These Rules shall be liberally construed to promote a just, expeditious and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding brought before the Sandiganbayan.

RULE II
ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP

SECTION 1. *Composition of the Court and Rule on Precedence.*-

(a) Composition - The Sandiganbayan is composed of a Presiding Justice and fourteen (14) Associate Justices appointed by the President of the Philippines.

(b) Rule on Precedence - The Presiding Justice shall enjoy precedence over the other members of the Sandiganbayan in all official functions. The Associate Justices shall have precedence according to the order of their appointments.

(c) The Rule on Precedence shall apply:

1) In the seating arrangement;
2) In the choice of office space, facilities and equipment, transportation and cottages;

(d) The Rule on Precedence shall not be observed:

1) In social and other non-official functions.
2) To justify any variation in the assignment of cases, amount of compensation, allowances or other forms of remuneration.

SEC. 2. *Sandiganbayan En banc.* - The Sandiganbayan *en banc* shall have exclusive control, direction and supervision of all matters pertaining to the conduct of its affairs. The Presiding Justice shall implement the policies and resolutions adopted by the Sandiganbayan *en banc.*

SEC. 3. *Constitution of the Divisions.* - The Sandiganbayan shall sit in five (5) Divisions of three (3) Justices each, including the Presiding Justice. The five (5) Divisions may sit separately at the same time. Each of the five (5) most senior Associate Justices including the Presiding Justice, shall be the Chairman of a Division; each of the five (5) Associate Justices next in rank shall be the Senior Member of a Division; and each of the last five (5) Associate Justices shall be the Junior Member of a Division.

SEC. 4. *Filling up of Vacancy due to Absence or Temporary Incapacity.* -

(a) In the office of the Presiding Justice - In the absence or temporary incapacity of the Presiding Justice to exercise the powers and perform the duties of his office, the most senior Associate Justice shall act as Presiding Justice until the regular Presiding Justice returns and re-assumes his office, or his incapacity is removed.

(b) In the position of Division Chairman - In the absence or temporary incapacity of a Chairman of a Division, the Senior Member of said Division shall act as Chairman; in the absence or temporary incapacity of both the Chairman and Senior Member of a Division, the Junior Member of said Division shall act as Chairman, notwithstanding the seniority of the Special Members designated to complete the membership of said Division. The Senior Member or Junior Member, as the case may be, shall act as Chairman until the regular Chairman re-assumes his office or his incapacity is removed.

(c) In the position of Senior or Junior Member - In the absence or temporary incapacity of a Senior or Junior Member of a Division, the Presiding Justice shall designate an Associate Justice of the Court from any of the other Divisions, to be determined by rotation on the basis of the reverse order of precedence or, if this be not feasible, by raffle among those available, to sit as Special Member of said Division until the regular member re-assumes his office or his incapacity is removed. The Associate Justice so designated shall continue as a regular member of his own Division.

(d) Authority and Prerogatives of Acting Chairman and Special Member - The Acting Chairman or Special Member so designated pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) above shall exercise the authority and prerogatives of a regular Chairman or Member of said Division, as the case may be, in the trial or resolution of cases assigned thereto.

SEC. 5. *Filling Up of Permanent Vacancy.* –

(a) In the position of the Presiding Justice - A permanent vacancy in the position of Presiding Justice shall be filled by a new Presiding Justice duly appointed by the President of the Philippines. In the interim, the most senior Associate Justice shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Presiding Justice.

(b) In the position of a Division Chairman - If a permanent vacancy occurs in the position of Chairman of a Division, the most senior Associate Justice in the Sandiganbayan who is not yet a Chairman shall become Chairman of that Division.

(c) In the position of Senior Member of a Division - If a permanent vacancy occurs in the position of Senior Member of a Division, the most senior ranking among the Junior Members of the Sandiganbayan shall become Senior Member of the Division.

(d) In the position of Junior Member of a Division - If a permanent vacancy occurs in the position of Junior Member of a Division, the Associate Justice appointed by the President of the Philippines shall be the Junior Member of the Division.

(e) In the positions of Senior and Junior Members of a Division - If permanent vacancies occur simultaneously in the positions of Senior and Junior Members of a Division, the vacancies shall be filled in the manner stated in the preceding paragraphs (c) and (d).

(f) Effect of the Appointment of a New Associate Justice - The appointment of a new Associate Justice and his assumption of the vacant position in the Division as its Junior Member shall not disturb the composition of the other Divisions and shall not prejudice the consequent changes in the ranking or seniority among the Associate Justices.

g) Ranking Within a Division Does Not Affect Seniority in the Sandiganbayan - The ranking of the Associate Justices within each Division does not affect their seniority in the Sandiganbayan which is based on the order of their respective appointments.

SEC. 6. *Court Officials and their Duties.* -

(a) Clerk of Court - The Clerk of Court is the administrative officer of the Sandiganbayan. He shall discharge his functions under the control and supervision of the Sandiganbayan *en banc* through the Presiding Justice.

As administrative officer, he shall take direct charge of the administrative operations of the Sandiganbayan and exercise general supervision over its subordinate officials and employees except those belonging to the staff of the Presiding Justice and the Associate Justices. He shall assist the Presiding Justice in the formulation of programs and policies for consideration and action of the Sandiganbayan *en banc*. The Clerk of Court shall act as its Secretariat and prepare its agenda, minutes of meetings and resolutions.

(b) Division Clerks of Court - Each Division of the Sandiganbayan shall have a staff composed of one (1) Division Clerk of Court and such personnel as the exigencies of the service may require.

(1) In the exercise of their functions, the Division Clerk of Court and the staff shall be under the control and supervision of the Division through its Chairman.

(2) The Division Clerk of Court shall have, among other duties and responsibilities, direct control and supervision over the staff of the Division; keep watch over the status and progress of cases assigned to the Division; monitor papers, pleadings and motions filed with the Receiving Section in connection with any pending case and update the records of cases to be acted upon by the Division, both in the completion process and decisional stage, such as, but not limited to, the filing of briefs, memoranda and other legal papers within the allowable periods, preparation of the agenda of motions and other incidental matters for action by the Division; release minute resolutions, notices of decisions, resolutions and hearings, summonses, subpoenas, writs and other processes by and under the authority of the Chairman of the Division; supervise the stenographers in the recording of the proceedings and preparation of its minutes; receive the decisions and resolutions of the Division for promulgation; and make entries of judgment in accordance with the Rules of Court.

(3) The Division Clerk of Court shall immediately report to the Chairman and Members of the Division the failure of any party to comply with any resolution or order of the Sandiganbayan within the period prescribed therefor.

SEC. 7. *Appointment of Court Officials and Other Employees.* -

The Supreme Court shall appoint the Clerk of Court, the Division Clerks of Court and all other personnel of the Sandiganbayan upon recommendation of the Sandiganbayan *en banc* chosen from a list of qualified applicants prepared in accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules and regulations.

All resignations and terminations of services of officials and employees of the Court shall be submitted by the Sandiganbayan *en banc* through the Presiding Justice to the Supreme Court for appropriate action.

SEC. 8. *Standing Committees.*– The following standing committees, each composed of a Chairman and at least two (2) members, all of whom are appointed by the Sandiganbayan *en banc*, shall assist the Sandiganbayan in the following administrative matters:

(a) Committee on Personnel – On matters involving personnel such as recruitment, appointment, monitoring of leaves of absence, training, change of organizational structure, creation of positions, discipline, retirement and termination of services.

(b) Committee on Budget and Finance – On matters involving: (1) the preparation of annual budget for submission to the Sandiganbayan *en banc* for approval, (2) allotment of funds, (3) accounting, and (4) all financial transactions.

(c) Committee on Security and Safety – On matters involving: (1) formulation of security policies, (2) enforcement and implementation of safety measures such as wearing of I. D. cards, control of visitors, etc.

(d) Committee on Records Management and Information Service - On matters involving the management of records, information, statistical data and computerization.

(e) Committee on Employee Welfare and Benefits – On matters involving: (1) creation and maintenance of medical and dental services, (2) establishment and operation of a health and welfare plan, (3) establishment and supervision of canteen for Justices, officials and employees, cultural and sports activities, (4) maintenance of shuttle buses and other equipment for employees and, (5) other related matters regarding employee welfare and benefits.

(f) Committee on Legal and Research Services – On matters involving library services, publication of decisions and circulars of the Sandiganbayan, research on legal issues and other related matters referred to it by the Sandiganbayan.

(g) Committee on Buildings and Grounds – On matters involving: (1) the construction, repairs, improvements and maintenance of buildings and grounds, (2) the installation of safety and necessary devices, (3) formulation and submission of proposals for the acquisition of sites, construction and maintenance of buildings for the Sandiganbayan's sessions outside Metro Manila.

(h) Committee on Purchase and Acquisition of Facilities, Equipment and Supplies – On matters involving the purchase, acquisition, maintenance and disposal of vehicles, office equipment, supplies, books, computers and furniture of the Sandiganbayan, and conducting required biddings and awards in relation thereto.

(i) Committee on Rules – On matters involving the revision of the internal rules, circulars and administrative orders of the Sandiganbayan.

(j) Committee on Raffle of Cases – On matters involving the raffle and assignment of cases, the conduct of the regular raffle of cases filed with the Sandiganbayan, classification of cases for purposes of consolidation before the scheduled raffle, and the propriety and legality of conducting a special raffle of particular cases *motu proprio* or upon motion of a litigant.

(k) Committee on Social Affairs and Liaison – On matters involving the social activities of the Sandiganbayan, and liaison with other government offices and agencies.

The Presiding Justice shall be a non-voting *ex-officio* member of all standing committees. The members of the standing committee shall serve for a term of one (1) year from date of appointment by the Sandiganbayan *en banc*.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the Sandiganbayan may create *ad hoc* committees for specific projects or undertakings. It may also modify the functions and responsibilities of the standing committees as the need therefor arises.

The various standing and *ad hoc* committees shall submit their recommendations to the Sandiganbayan *en banc* for appropriate action.

RULE III
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN

SECTION 1. *Exercise of Adjudicatory Powers and Functions.* – The Sandiganbayan shall exercise its adjudicatory powers, functions and duties through its five (5) Divisions. It sits *en banc* for the exercise of its administrative, ceremonial and non-adjudicatory functions.

SEC. 2. *Matters Cognizable by the Sandiganbayan En banc.* - The Sandiganbayan shall sit *en banc* to:

(a) Promulgate rules or orders, amend, revise or repeal existing rules or orders or parts thereof, and formulate and adopt policies relative to administrative matters, such as the distribution of cases and the internal operation and management of the Court.

(b) Recommend to the Supreme Court the appointment of the Clerk of Court, Division Clerks of Court and other court employees chosen from a list of all qualified applicants for each vacant position prepared in accordance with the Civil Service Law rules and regulations, except for positions that are confidential in nature and co-terminous with the term of office of a particular Associate Justice to whom they are assigned who shall make the proper endorsement to the Sandiganbayan *en banc* for recommendation to the Supreme Court.

(c) Act on organizational matters, such as the creation or abolition of offices, unit or service or their regrouping or merger as the exigencies of the service may require.

(d) Receive foreign and local dignitaries, important guests and visitors, honor a colleague or retiring member of the Sandiganbayan, and hold appropriate funeral services for deceased members.

(e) Adopt uniform administrative measures, procedures, and policies for the protection and preservation of the integrity of the judicial processes, the speedy disposition of cases and the promotion of efficiency of the personnel.

(f) Provide a forum for discussion of various issues or matters.

(g) Take up other administrative matters which the Presiding Justice or any member of the Sandiganbayan may suggest for consideration.

SEC. 3. *Supreme Court Creation of Special Division.* - The Sandiganbayan *en banc* may request or recommend to the Supreme Court the creation of a Special Division to try cases where compelling reasons and the interest of justice so require.

PART II
ORIGINAL ACTIONS

RULE IV
SESSIONS AND TRIALS

SECTION 1. *Official Station; Place of Holding Sessions.* - The Sandiganbayan shall have its principal office in the Metro Manila area and shall hold sessions thereat for the trial and resolution of cases filed with it: Provided, however, that cases originating from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, shall be heard in the region of origin, except only when the greater convenience of the parties and of the witnesses or other compelling considerations require the contrary, in which instance a case originating from one region may be heard in another region: Provided, further, that for this purpose the Presiding Justice shall authorize any Division or Divisions of the Sandiganbayan to hold sessions at any time and place outside Metro Manila, and, where the greater interest of justice so requires, outside the Philippines.

SEC. 2. *Support Personnel and Facilities In Sessions Outside of Principal Office in Metro Manila.* - In sessions outside of its principal office in Metro Manila, the Sandiganbayan may require the services of the personnel and the use of facilities of the courts or other government offices where any of the Divisions is holding sessions and the personnel of such courts or offices shall be subject to the orders of the Sandiganbayan acting through the Chairman of the Division.

SEC. 3. *Regular Court Sessions.* –

(a) Sandiganbayan *En banc* - The regular sessions of the Sandiganbayan *en banc* shall be held at least twice a month on a Friday morning, particularly on the first and third week of the month. The Presiding Justice or at least eight (8) Associate Justices may call a special session at another date and time.

(b) Divisions - Regular sessions for trial of cases brought to and cognizable by the Sandiganbayan shall be from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon or from 2:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., from Monday to Friday. The Division Chairman, however, for urgent and valid reasons, may schedule the hearing of a case assigned to his Division on other dates and time after consultation with the parties.

RULE V
ISSUANCE OF PROCESSES

SECTION 1. *Writs and Processes Issued By The Court.* - Writs and processes of the Sandiganbayan, such as arrest or search warrants, which by requirement of law or the Rules of Court must be signed by a Justice, shall be issued by the Chairman of the Division, or in his absence, the Senior Member in the Division, or, in the absence of the latter, the Junior Member. However, where there is an urgent necessity for the issuance thereof before the case is raffled to a Division, the writ or process shall be issued by the Presiding Justice. In the absence of the Presiding Justice, the same shall be issued by the most senior Associate Justice of the Sandiganbayan in attendance.

SEC. 2. *Writs and Processes Issued by Clerks of Court.* - All other writs and processes shall be issued by the Clerk of Court or the Division Clerk of Court, upon order of the Division through the Chairman or anyone acting as such, under the seal of the Sandiganbayan.

RULE VI
BAIL

SECTION 1. *How Amount Fixed; Approval.* – The amount of bail to be posted in cases of bailable offenses shall be fixed by the Chairman of the Division to which they are assigned or any Justice of the Division acting in his behalf. Such bail may be approved by any Justice of the Division to where the case is assigned or in their absence, by any Justice of the Sandiganbayan. The approved bail shall be immediately submitted to the members of the Division for confirmation. Where none of the Justices of the Sandiganbayan is available or where the accused is arrested, detained or otherwise placed in custody outside the Metro Manila area, Sections 17 and 19, Rule 114 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure shall apply.

RULE VII
MOTIONS

SECTION 1. *Motion Day.* – Except for motions which may be acted upon *ex parte*, all motions shall be scheduled for hearings on a Friday, or if that day is a non-working holiday, on the next working day.

Motions requiring immediate action may be acted upon on shorter notice.

In appealed cases, the provision of Sec. 3, Rule 49 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended, on Motions shall apply.

SEC. 2. Resolution on Interlocutory or Incidental Motions. - Rulings on all written motions on interlocutory or incidental matters submitted to any regular Division for resolution shall be reached in consultation among and by the unanimous vote of the three (3) Justices participating in the consideration thereof: Provided, however, that rulings on oral motions or objections made in the course of the trial or hearing shall be made by the Chairman of the Division: Provided, further, that oral motions or objections on substantial but interlocutory or incidental matters may be ordered reduced into writing and shall likewise be resolved by the unanimous vote of the three (3) Justices of the Division.

In case a unanimous vote cannot be obtained, a Special Division of five (5) Justices shall be constituted pursuant to Section 1 (b), Rule VIII. A majority vote of such Special Division shall suffice to decide interlocutory or incidental motions.

A demurrer to evidence shall be resolved or decided within ninety (90) days from its submission.

RULE VIII
RENDITION OF JUDGMENT OR FINAL ORDER

SECTION 1. *Votes Required to Decide.* –

(a) *En banc* - The vote of at least eight (8) members of the Sandiganbayan shall be required for the adoption of a resolution.

(b) In Division - The unanimous vote of three (3) Justices in a Division shall be necessary for the rendition of a judgment or final order. In the event a unanimous vote is not obtained, the Presiding Justice shall designate by raffle and on rotation basis two (2) Justices from all the other members of the Sandiganbayan to sit temporarily with them, forming a Special Division of five (5) Justices, and the vote of a majority of such Special Division shall be necessary for the rendition of a judgment or final order.

SEC. 2. *Procedure in Deciding Cases.* – The conclusions of a regular or Special Division of the Sandiganbayan in any case submitted to it for decision shall be reached in consultation among the members thereof before the case is assigned to one of them for the writing of the opinion of the Division.

A certification to this effect signed by the Presiding Justice shall be issued and a copy thereof attached to the record of the case and served upon the parties. Any Member who took no part, dissented or abstained from a decision or resolution must state the reason therefor.

SEC. 3. *Judgment in Joint Trials.* - In a joint trial involving more than one case, the Division may render a joint or separate judgment when appropriate. In case there are more than one (1) accused, the Division may also render judgment, for or against one or more of the accused, when proper. In either case, where the required unanimous vote is not secured, a Special Division of five (5) Justices shall be constituted to resolve the remaining case or the criminal or civil liability of the remaining accused. In such case, a vote of the majority shall be required.

SEC. 4. *Promulgation of Judgment.* - A judgment in a criminal case of a Division of the Sandiganbayan shall be promulgated by reading the judgment or sentence in the presence of the accused and any member of the Division which rendered the judgment.

In case an incident arises during the promulgation, the same shall be submitted in writing for resolution to the Division which rendered the judgment.

Where the judgment is promulgated outside Metro Manila, the Division which rendered the judgment may authorize another Division sitting outside Metro Manila to promulgate the judgment and resolve all incidents during the promulgation therein.

In the absence of the accused, Sec. 6, Rule 120 of the Revised Rules of Court shall apply.

RULE IX
MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL OR RECONSIDERATION

SECTION 1. *Period to File Motion For New Trial or Reconsideration.* - A Motion for New Trial or Reconsideration of a decision or final order may be filed within fifteen (15) days from promulgation of the judgment or from notice of the final order or judgment, and such Motion shall be decided within thirty (30) days from its submission.

SEC. 2. *The Justices Who Shall Act on a Motion for New Trial or Reconsideration.* -

(a) Motions for New Trial or Reconsideration of a decision or resolution shall be acted upon by the *Ponente* and the other members of the Division who participated in the decision or resolution sought to be reconsidered, irrespective of whether or not such members are already in other divisions at the time the said motions were filed. They shall be deemed constituted as a Special Division of the Division to which the *Ponente* belonged at the time of the promulgation of the decision or resolution.

(b) If the *Ponente* is no longer a member of the Sandiganbayan or is disqualified or has inhibited himself from acting on the motion, he shall be replaced by another Justice who shall be chosen by raffle from among the remaining members of the Division who participated in the decision or resolution and who concurred therein.

(c) If only one (1) member of the Division who participated and concurred in the decision or resolution remains, he shall be the *Ponente*.

(d) Any vacancy in the Special Division shall be filled by raffle from among the other members of the Sandiganbayan to constitute a Special Division of five (5) members.

(e) If the *Ponente* and all members of the Division that rendered the decision or resolution are no longer members of the Sandiganbayan, the new Chairman may assign the case to any member of the Division and the motion shall be acted upon by him with the participation of the other members of the Division.

(f) Motions for reconsideration shall be resolved by a Division by unanimous vote of its members, and in case of a Special Division of five (5), by the concurrence of at least three (3) of its members.

SEC. 3. *Grounds for New Trial in Civil Cases.* - A new trial may be granted in civil cases decided by the Sandiganbayan in the exercise of its original jurisdiction on the grounds provided in Section 1 of Rule 37 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

In civil cases appealed to or decided by the Sandiganbayan, a new trial may be granted on the ground provided in Section 1 of Rule 53 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

SEC. 4. *Grounds for New Trial in Criminal Cases.* - A new trial may be granted in criminal cases decided by the Sandiganbayan in the exercise of its original jurisdiction on the grounds provided in Sec. 2 of Rule 121 or on the ground provided in Sec. 14, Rule 124 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure in criminal cases appealed to or decided by the Sandiganbayan.

SEC. 5. *Effect of Granting a New Trial.* - When a new trial is granted in civil cases, the provisions of Rule 37 or Rule 53 shall apply in the proper case. When a new trial is granted in criminal cases, Rule 121 or Rule 124 shall apply in the proper case.

SEC. 6. *Period to Decide Case on New Trial.* - When a New Trial is granted in the cases under the immediately preceding Sections 3, 4, and 5, the same period of time granted to the Sandiganbayan to decide a case submitted for decision shall apply.

SEC. 7. *Form of Disposition.* - In all cases where the Sandiganbayan grants new trial or reconsideration, the original judgment shall be set aside or vacated and a new or amended judgment rendered accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effect of Filing an Appeal in the Supreme Court.* - No Motion for Reconsideration or New Trial shall be acted upon if the movant has filed with the Supreme Court an appeal by *certiorari* or a motion for extension of time to file such petition. The Motion for Reconsideration or New Trial pending with the Sandiganbayan shall be deemed abandoned upon the filing of the petition.

RULE X
REVIEW OF JUDGMENTS AND FINAL ORDERS

SECTION 1. *Method of Review.* --

(a) In General - A party may appeal from a judgment or final order of the Sandiganbayan imposing or affirming a penalty less than death, life imprisonment or *reclusion perpetua* in criminal cases, and, in civil cases, by filing with the Supreme Court a petition for review on *certiorari* in accordance with Rule 45 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

(b) Exceptions - Where the judgment or final order of the Sandiganbayan, in the exercise of its original jurisdiction, imposes the penalty of life imprisonment or *reclusion perpetua* or where a lesser penalty is imposed involving offenses committed on the same occasion or which arose out of the same occurrence that gave rise to the more serious offense for which the penalty of death, *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment is imposed, the appeal shall be taken by filing a notice of appeal with the Sandiganbayan and serving a copy thereof to the adverse party.

(c) Automatic Appeal - Whenever the Sandiganbayan in the exercise of its original jurisdiction imposes the death penalty, the records shall be forwarded to the Supreme Court for automatic review and judgment within five (5) days after the fifteenth (15th) day following the promulgation of the judgment or notice of denial of a Motion for New Trial or Reconsideration. The traascript shall also be forwarded within ten (10) days after the filing thereof by the stenographic reporter.

Whenever the Sandiganbayan, in the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction, finds that the penalty of death, *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment should be imposed, it shall render judgment accordingly. However, it shall refrain from entering the judgment and forthwith certify the case and elevate its entire record to the Supreme Court for review.

(d) Form, Finality and Enforcement of Decisions and Final Orders – Section 7 of Presidential Decree No. 1606, as amended, governs the form, finality and enforcement of decisions and final orders rendered by the Sandiganbayan through its Divisions.

PART III
MODES OF APPEAL TO THE SANDIGANBAYAN

RULE XI
APPEAL AND PETITION FOR REVIEW

SECTION 1. *Ordinary Appeal.* - Appeal to the Sandiganbayan from a decision rendered by a Regional Trial Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction shall be by ordinary appeal under Rules 41 and 44 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure or Rules 122 and 124 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure as amended, as the case may be.

SEC. 2. *Petition for Review.* - Appeal to the Sandiganbayan from a decision of the Regional Trial Court in the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction shall be by Petition for Review under Rule 42 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

PART IV
PROVISIONS COMMON TO ORIGINAL AND APPEALED CASES AND PETITIONS FOR REVIEW

RULE XII
ASSIGNMENT, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSOLIDATION OF CASES

SECTION 1. *Distribution of Cases.* - All cases filed with the Sandiganbayan shall be distributed among the five (5) Divisions for hearing and decision by regular raffle at 1:30 P.M. of every Friday or if that day is a non-working day, on the next succeeding working day, at the session hall of the First Division. A special raffle of a case may be conducted by the Raffle Committee before the next regular raffle day for valid and urgent reasons determined by the Chairman of the Raffle Committee or, in his absence, by any of the members thereof.

SEC. 2. *Consolidation of Cases.* - Cases arising from the same incident or series of incidents, or involving common questions of fact and law, may be consolidated in the Division to which the case bearing the lowest docket number is raffled.

(a) Before Cases Are Raffled - Should the propriety of consolidation appear upon the filing of the cases concerned as determined by the Raffle Committee, all such cases shall be consolidated and considered as one case for purposes of the raffle and inventory of pending cases assigned to each of the Divisions.

(b) After Cases Are Raffled - Should the propriety of such consolidation become apparent only after the cases are raffled, consolidation may be effected upon written motion of a litigant concerned filed with the Division taking cognizance of the case to be consolidated. If the motion is granted, consolidation shall be made to the Division in which the case with the lowest docket number is assigned. The Division to which the cases are consolidated shall transfer to the Division from which the consolidated cases came, an equivalent number of cases of approximately the same age, nature and stage in the proceedings, with proper notice to the parties in said cases.

SEC. 3. *Assignment of Cases; Permanent.* - Cases assigned to a Division of the Sandiganbayan shall remain with said Division notwithstanding changes in its composition. All matters raised therein shall be resolved by all the Justices who are members of the Division at the time said matters were submitted for resolution. However, only such Justices who are members of the Division at the time the case is submitted for decision shall take part in the resolution of the case. If a member of the Division ceases to be a member of the Sandiganbayan for any reason whatsoever, the Associate Justice chosen to fill the vacancy in accordance with the manner provided in Sec. 4 or 5, Rule II of these Rules shall participate in the resolution of said case.

SEC. 4. *Cases Submitted for Decision; Assignment to Ponente.* –

(a) In original actions, a case shall be considered submitted for decision upon the filing of the last pleading, brief or memorandum required by the Rules of Court or by the Sandiganbayan or the expiration of the period to do so.

(b) In appealed cases and petitions for review, the case shall be deemed submitted for decision or resolution upon the filing of the last pleading, brief or memorandum required by the Revised Rules of Court or by the Court itself.

(c) Motions and other incidents in a case shall be deemed submitted for resolution when so declared by the Court.

(d) Within five (5) days from submittal of the case or matter for decision or resolution, the Chairman of the Division shall assign by raffle a member thereof to study and make a report on the case or matter. If the Chairman fails to make the assignment, he shall be deemed to be the one to study and report on the case.

(e) Within ninety (90) days from the time the case was submitted for decision or resolution, the Justice to whom the case is assigned for study and report shall submit a written report thereon to the other members of the Division for consultation. The Chairman shall include the case in an agenda for a meeting of the Division for its deliberation.

(f) After such deliberation, if the other members of the Division agree with the report, the member to whom the case is assigned for study and report shall write the decision for signature and immediate promulgation. Minutes of the meeting shall be kept.

(g) Within ten (10) days from the date of the deliberation, a justice may submit his dissent to the other members of the Division. The written dissenting opinion shall not be attached to the rollo. The Chairman of the Division shall then refer the case to the Presiding Justice who shall designate by raffle two justices on rotation basis from all the other members of the Sandiganbayan to sit temporarily with them, forming a Special Division of Five.

(h) After a member of the Division has expressed his dissent in writing and the Special Division of Five is thus constituted, it shall retain the case until its final disposition despite changes in its membership caused by reorganization or other causes.

(i) After due consultation, the members of the Special Division of Five whose opinion constitute the majority shall choose from among them the *ponente*. Any member may write a separate concurring or dissenting opinion, which, together with the majority opinion shall be duly promulgated and attached to the rollo.

(j) If the consultation in the Special Division of Five results in a unanimous concurrence, all its members shall sign the decision or resolution.

(k) If the justice to whom the case is assigned for study and report is transferred to another Division as its permanent member, he shall bring with him and write his report of the cases assigned to him in his original Division together with the other members of the Division to which the case was submitted for decision.

The Division from which the Justice to whom the case is assigned for study and report came shall be known as a Special Division.

(l) If the Justice to whom the case is assigned for study and report ceases to be a member of the Sandiganbayan, due to retirement, resignation or for any other cause, his pending cases shall remain with the Division to which they were assigned. However, in appropriate cases and for compelling reasons, the Chairman may assign said cases to the new appointee for study and report.

(m) An Associate Justice who is about to retire shall not be assigned cases for study and report three (3) months before his retirement date.

SEC. 5. *Grounds for Inhibition of Division Members.* -

A Division member may inhibit himself from a case on the following grounds:

(a) When he was the *Ponente* of the appealed decision of the lower court;

(b) When he was counsel or member of a law firm which was counsel in a case before the Division; or he, his wife or child is pecuniarily interested in said case as heir, legatee, creditor or otherwise; or he is related to either party in the case within the sixth degree of consanguinity or affinity or to counsel within the fourth degree, computed according to the rules of the civil law; or he has been executor, administrator, guardian or trustee in the case.

A Division member may inhibit himself for any compelling reason other than those mentioned above.

SEC. 6. *Effect of Inhibition from Particular Cases.* - Should the Chairman of a Division inhibit himself or is disqualified from participating in a case, it shall be transferred to any of the four (4) other Divisions by raffle. If a Senior or Junior Member inhibits himself or is disqualified in a case, he shall be replaced in accordance with the procedure stated in Section 4 (c) of Rule II but the case shall remain with the Division.

RULE XIII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Publication of Decision.* – The decision of the Sandiganbayan may be published in the *Official Gazette* in the language in which they have been originally written. The syllabi for the decisions shall be prepared by the Clerk of Court in consultation with the writers thereof.

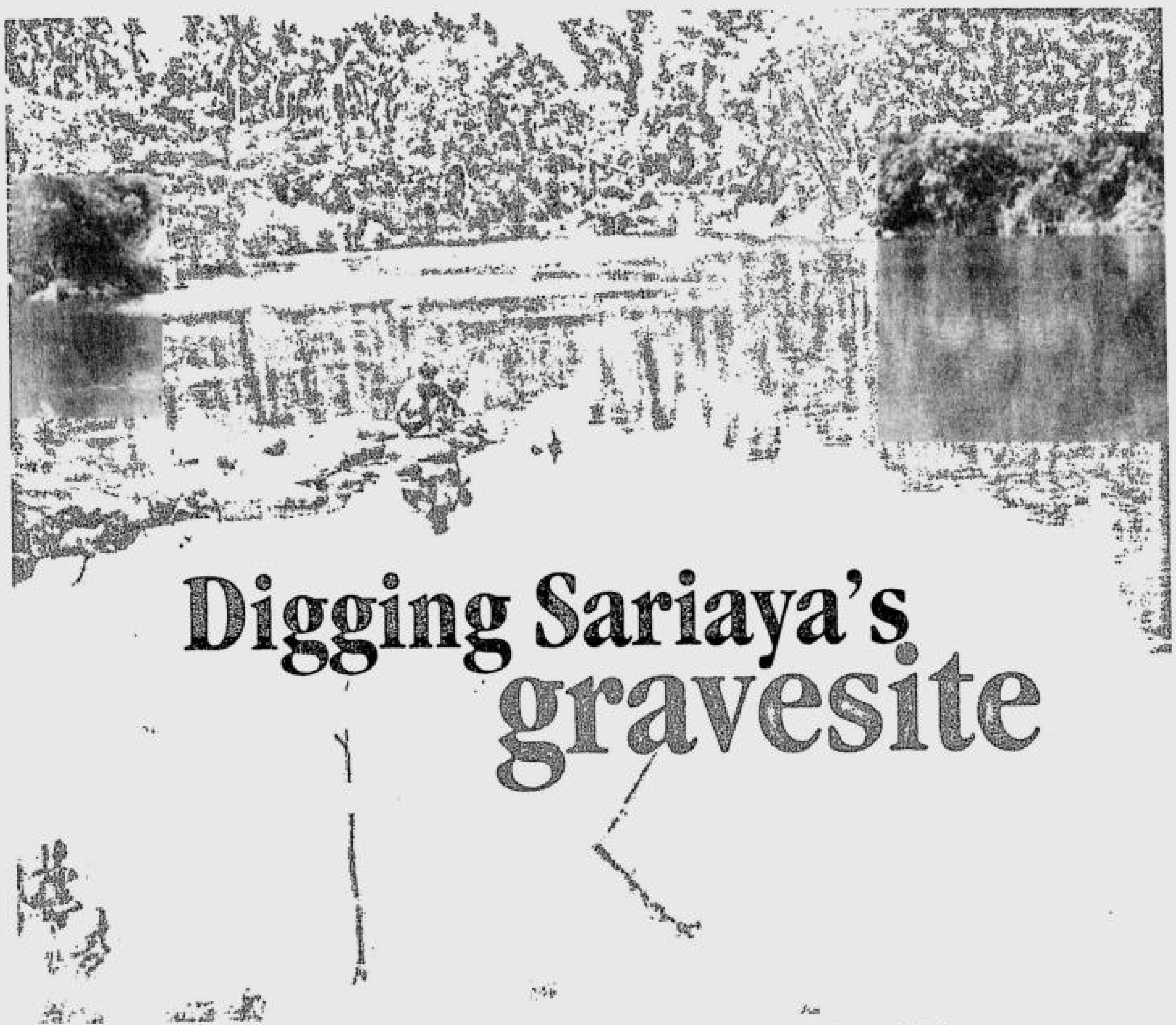
SEC. 2. *Seal of The Sandiganbayan.* - The seal of the Sandiganbayan shall be of standard size, circular in form, consisting of two concentric circles as its margin with the inscription, running from left to right, on the upper margin the word "*Sandiganbayan*" and, on the lower margin, the words "*Republika ng Pilipinas*", with 13 stars representing the existing judicial regions immediately along the outer edge of the inner circle; and with a design at the center, of a triangle with a trisected area composed of the national colors of white on its upper part, blue on the left and red on the right, with the words "*KATAPATAN*" on the left side, "*KAPANAGUTAN*" on the right side, and "*KARANGALAN*" on the base; a star in each corner of the triangle representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and a bolo inside the triangle on which is superimposed a balance.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - Upon effectivity of these Rules, all rules, circulars and administrative orders of the Sandiganbayan inconsistent therewith are hereby repealed.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – These Rules shall take effect on October 1, 2002 following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel ◦ *Bureau Chief* Floreño G. Solmirano



Digging Sariaya's gravesite

THIS lake, carved from continuous quarry operations inside coconut plantations, is feared to cause disaster in Sariaya. DELFIN MALLARI

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Sariaya, Quezon

SEVERAL craters measuring several hundred square meters and at least 20 feet deep proliferate in Sariaya, Quezon, the main source of aggregates for Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog since the construction boom began in the 1980s.

The craters have become lakes without outlets and have caused fear among residents of Sampaloc II, Sto Cristo, Tumbaga II, Canda, Limbon and Castanas, where legal and illegal mining operations proliferate. Cobbles, stones and boulders are continuously extracted in these villages situated on either side of the Janagdong and Lagnas rivers that flow into the Tayabas Bay.

"Sometime in 1995, we predicted that in just a couple of years, the craters would be transformed into inland lakes that could endanger the lives of people living in the area," said Rosario Rama, principal and science club moderator at the St. Joseph's Academy.

Rama's warning has become a reality.

"In the event of an earthquake or during heavy rains, the land surrounding the crater could suddenly erode, causing a landslide towards the crater," she said.

The water that has filled up the pit has become murky and stagnant. With no outlets for drainage, the threat of a spread of water-borne diseases in the surrounding areas is imminent.

One of the abandoned quarry sites in Barangay Concepcion along the Maharlika Highway is now a wide lake with no known water outlet.

The residents also fear that with a strong surge of rainwater from the mountain, the impounded water could seep into the concrete highway and destroy its foundation.

Monitoring

In fact, the Lagnas Bridge that connects the Maharlika Highway collapsed at the height of typhoon "Rosing" in 1995 due to the strong current of the heavily mined river coming from the denuded portion of Mt. Banahaw. The current loosened the base of the bridge's foundation.

A geohazard study conducted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) revealed the presence of a 7-kilometer rock wall in the upper portion of the mountain that has created a natural water reservoir and a rich source of quarry materials.

If the wall breaks down, the rush of water could trigger another flash flood of the same proportion that struck Ormoc City in the Visayas in 1991, according to residents of Sariaya.

The MGB report said the natural dam could hold a large volume of river and rain waters, which "unfortunately is hardly accessible, remote and generally unmonitored on the ground."

The collapse of the dam could also spell disaster for low-lying areas of the Lagnas River, Sariaya and their vicinity.

To prepare for disaster, the local government and national government agencies adopted a flood control program to dredge the Sariaya River and its tributaries of silted sand, stones, boulders and other deposits.

However, in a memorandum of agreement signed in December 1998, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local government agreed that a stop to all quarry operations in Sariaya was out of the question.

They cited the social and economic dislocation of people who depend on quarrying for livelihood.

One of several reports made by the local government endorsing the quarry operations also noted that In the entire region, Sariaya "possesses the highest quality and the most abundant source of this kind of raw construction material and that in view of the momentum of our economic recovery, infrastructure and other large-scale construction are at its peak, which makes the demand for our minerals increase several folds and puts us in a no-other-choice situation."

"In other words, for us to refuse to supply the needs of growth in the region and in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Aurora-Quezon) area is to refuse to give our contribution and share to progress, if not utter selfishness," the report said.

Alarming

"The flood control program only legitimized the rampant quarry operations. It did not address the fear brought by the discovery of the wall," said Jun Lontok, chair of the environmentalist group Luntiang Alyansa sa Bundok Banahaw (LABB).

Ironically, three years later, in its 2001 municipal profile, the Sariaya Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) admitted that "the growth of the mining industry or quarrying has reached an alarming level and its negative effects have been felt and have become the spring of community fear of calamities and other certainties."

The report noted that in just a few years, the quarrying area in Sariaya expanded from 53.7 hectares, before the town's flood control program was formulated and implemented, to about 620 ha.

But for Rafael Tantuco, owner of Tantuco Aggregates and president of the Sariaya quarry operators association which has more than 20 members, what they have been engaging in is legal and responsible quarrying operations.

"We serve as partners of the local government in its flood control program," Tantuco said.

He declined to comment on the proliferation of surface mining operators. "They do not belong to our group," he said.

The quarry operations also pose health threats to residents around the sites. Dust particles from rock crushers and sand piles have reportedly caused respiratory illnesses, especially among the children in the area.

The loud crushing noise even at night could cause stress-related health problems.

Alex Tolentino, president of the Sariaya village councilors' group, has admitted that health problems arising from the quarry operations are still not evident. "But we believe that sooner or later, the health situation here will be more pronounced," he said.

Coconuts to rocks

Coconut farming, which used to be the major economic activity in Sariaya, is no longer the major source of income for most residents in the rural areas. "Most of the coconut farm owners have all transformed their lots into veritable quarry sites for several rock crushers," Tolentino revealed.

The INQUIRER has observed the continuous movement of trucks hauling quarry materials from a coconut farm to the rock crushing plants of big-time aggregate suppliers.

For a coconut landowner-turned-illegal quarry operator, the conversion of his farm into a quarry site was due to pragmatic considerations. "The coconut industry is dying and so are we. It's good that we also have land rich in quarry materials. It has saved us from poverty," he said.

A truckload of quarry materials costs at least P300, Lontok said. "It's a continuous flow of cash for the landowners as long as there are stones and sand that can be extracted from his piece of land. And they are plenty."

The situation has also produced a new set of shrewd real estate speculators, Lontok pointed out. "They entice owners of low-yielding farm lots to sell the land to them, only to end up as another quarry sites."

Mario Leaño, Sariaya municipal administrator, however, said the local government prohibited surface mining. "What we allow under the flood control program is the dredging of the river," he said.

He revealed the scheme of some licensed quarry operators who resort to "surface mining" in farming areas along the river banks, instead of getting their materials from the river bed.

"That's illegal," he stressed, putting the blame on the DENR for the proliferation of illegal quarrying.

He said the DENR was the one granting the license and the mayor's office was only giving clearance to start the diggings.

Leaño admitted that the flood control program had been temporarily shelved for lack of funds.

The MPDO report said the town earned P11 million from the business licenses of quarry operators from 1988 to 2001. However, the report also pointed out that the initial estimate by the DPWH for the rehabilitation of areas damaged by quarrying was P570 million.

"In other words, it is believed that quarrying, which has been encouraged then by the local government in order to be the major instrument in the implementation of the flood control program, has gone not only inconsistent with the full intention and purposes of the program but has also eventually run counter to the very program that presupposes its legal existence," the report stressed.

Lontok believes that the rampant quarrying should be examined to see if it these are still relevant, considering the ugly results of their operations.

"Never before in the history of the town have the natives displayed zealous concern with their environment, and it is mainly due to rampant quarry operations," he said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LABB

THIS digging will eventually turn into a lake with unhampered extraction of stones and rocks inside a coconut area in Sariaya.

Old woman tangles with mayor awardee over land dispute

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

SHE may just be a small voice raised against a local chief executive bestowed with the highest Asian award for local governance in 2000.

But 69-year-old Ildefonsa Brioso did not mince words when she accused Mayor Jesse Robredo of Naga City, 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for local governance, of shortchanging the urban poor to favor a businessman.

For one, the city's urban poor program was among the supposed achievements of Robredo, using a strategy of "people's participation."

Known as "Ka Panchang" in her community, Brioso may be living in an old small, leaning and dilapidated house and clad in old clothes, but she is no doubt knowledgeable of the intricacies of the ownership issue that continues to haunt the informal settlers. She may not have finished high school because of poverty, but she has learned to flesh out the legal problems and technicalities of their ownership claim to a piece of land that they have lived on all their lives.

KA PANCHANG JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

Brioso said she had made the rounds of the Bureau of Lands, the Court of Appeals and other government agencies in Metro Manila in following up their case.

Demolition

Like the Sword of Damocles, a demolition order hangs over the poor occupants of a 38,275-sqm property in Barangay Sabang. Almost half of the 200 families have already been relocated due to pressures from city government and a court ruling in favor of another claimant of the property.

The remaining families have stood their ground and continued praying that justice will prevail. They survived a demolition order in November last year.

At the helm of their struggle is Ka Panchang, who is among the few surviving residents who have been pressing for their rights to the land since 1949.

In an interview, Mayor Robredo explained how the city government got embroiled in the controversy in 1994.

He said a certain Felix Yuboco, who owns a real estate company called Naga Centrum and is a claimant of the property in Sabang, was about to ask the court to demolish the houses of the occupants when officers and members of the Sabang Poro Kabisig Organization Inc. (Spokoi), an urban poor group, came and asked for his help.

Amicable agreement

In resolving the conflict, Robredo said he and Yuboco reached an agreement that detailed a plan to relocate the occupants to a subdivision lot that the city government will purchase. The agreement was signed before a judge on Aug. 4, 1994, and the occupants concurred with the relocation plan, the mayor said.

Under the agreement, the city government "shall buy the western portion of the lot identified in the subdivision plan as Lot 3283-A with an area of 13,000 sqm." It was to be the "relocation site" where the poor dwellers can build permanent homes.

Lot 3283-A is actually where their houses now stand, Ka Panchang claims. It turned out that the city government bought Lot 3283-C at the back of the relocation site, and not Lot 3283-A as stated in the "Deed of Absolute Sale with Donation of Portion of Real Property."

The city government paid Yabuco P3.9 million for Lot 3283-C with a total area of 12,634 sqm while the businessman donated Lot 3283-D (366 sqm) and Lot 3283-B (3,500 sqm).

Nathan Sergio, former chief of the Urban Poor Affairs Office who was directly involved in the negotiations, explained that although there were changes in the label, the area that the city bought was the same one referred to in the agreement.

But the document clearly stated that Lot 3283-A, which the deed of sale intended as relocation site, is in the western portion of the property and Lot 3283-C in the eastern portion.

The situation is now beyond the jurisdiction of the city government, Robredo said, because a judicial decision has been made and that the poor dwellers must now transfer to the back portion of the property.

He said he believed that some members of Spokoi, who have no intention of moving out, bungled the issue by claiming that the relocation site was not the one agreed upon.

Betrayed

Brioso felt betrayed. She said each of the 200 affected families had scrounged for money to pay for their equity share of P2,000 from 1994 to 1997 so that they could own the land.

On July 11, 1983, a senior special investigator of the Bureau of Lands, Rufino S. Gabalpin, discovered fraud in ascertaining the ownership of the property. After examining 19 documents, he concluded that the contested property was public land.

Gabalpin "strongly" recommended the immediate cancellation of the land titles through the Office of the Solicitor General for the reversion of the property to the state, "for it is a great loss of the national patrimony."

He asserted that the parcel of land was registered in the name of the heirs of Felix Ledda, the claimants from whom Yuboco bought the property, through fraud.

Gabalpin belied the claim of the heirs, in a case filed before the Court of First Instance of Camarines Sur on Jan. 23, 1956, that they had been in possession of the property since 1894 and that the original owner was a certain Pedro Bonnevie.

According to the heirs, the property was bought by a certain Guillermo Lopez from Bonnevie in a public auction held sometime in 1914 and it was, in turn, sold to Felix Ledda on Feb. 7, 1955.

But Gabalpin noted that Tax Declaration No. 03047, with which the Lopez property was paid, stated that Lopez owned only 975 sqm.

The lands official said the Lopez property was expanded almost 39 times by revising the tax declarations through the years. from Tax No. 03047 to Tax No. 4822 and then to Tax No. 5651 on Feb. 1, 1951.

"It was noted that from Apr. 27, 1949 to Feb. 1, 1951, a span of two years, the original area of 975 sqm had become 38,386 sqm, which explicitly manifests that such expansion was made by means of deceit and misrepresentation," Gabalpin wrote.

Gabalpin also found that Pedro Bonnevie could not have owned the disputed property since 1894. He said he contacted the real Pedro Bonnevie in his house at the Bonnevie Building on Melendres Street, Iriga City, who told him that he was not yet born in 1894.

President . . .

From page A1

property in Antipolo City suspected of harboring some P1.8 billion worth of smuggled rice.

She watched and did nothing as her security aides forcibly entered the compound without a warrant.

Mercifully, the President did not enter the compound after her aides succeeded in opening the gates. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who was with her, reportedly warned her against doing so.

During a luncheon with Palace reporters later, Ms Macapagal made light of her near trespassing.

She admitted that the National Bureau of Investigation was to serve the seizure and detention warrant in the afternoon.

"But because I was already in the neighborhood and these NBI agents have been there for one week resisting bribe attempts and everything to secure (the area), I went there to let them know we appreciate their work," she quipped.

"But (the warrant) should be coming today," she said, adding that Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo was to serve it.

Unscheduled visit

Ms Macapagal made the unscheduled visit to the compound after visiting kidnap victim Agnes Guirindola in her home in nearby Marikina City.

She saw that the gates of the compound were locked, so she walked toward the back in an apparent search for another way in.

But there was no gate at the back.

Some of her security aides pounded with their fists and kicked at the gates, trying to open them.

According to reporters at the site, the President looked on while four Special Reaction Unit (SRU) men in black scaled the walls to get inside while a man in civilian clothes shouted at them to get down.

Ms Macapagal spoke with some neighbors and told reporters that she was congratulating Perez and the NBI for another successful raid.

As she was talking, the four SRU officers opened the gates from the inside.

TV cameramen quickly positioned themselves inside and waited for the President to make her entrance. But the photo op did not materialize.

At the luncheon, Ms Macapagal distributed copies of the report run by the tabloid Bulgar on Sunday about the 23,460 cavans of smuggled rice worth P1.8 billion that managed to leave the Port of Manila.

The shipment was said to have arrived last May and June without an importation permit, but Port of Manila district collector Rey Nicolas allowed its release to the consignee, Dynamic Logistic and Expert Supply.

The container vans containing the rice were brought to a private warehouse owned by one Sam Lee at the Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig, the report said.

His mother's son

Like his mother, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo has a thing for photo ops with crime suspects.

Arroyo presented during a press conference yesterday at the National Police Commission four suspected drug pushers arrested in Mexico, Pampanga, and from whom P1.8 million worth of shabu and a maroon Nissan Urban Escapades Van (WMX-395) had been confiscated.

Among those present at the press conference were Interior Secretary and Napolcom chair Joey Lina, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and PNP Regional Director Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon.

Ebdane identified the suspects as Mike C. Ong, Peter G. Chua, Lanie G. Ibañez and Rommel D. Magtoto. The four were arrested Tuesday night in an entrapment.

Arroyo thanked the civilians who were instrumental in the arrest of the four.

"I'd just like to thank the people who helped us," he said. "Most of them were ground forces, civilians. It only goes to show that if civilians cooperate with police, *malayo ang mararating* (the campaign against drugs will go far)."

In turn, Lina congratulated Arroyo for the operation conducted by members of Police Regional Office 3 and the Regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

"I congratulate Mikee for the initiative he has taken as lead youth advocate against illegal drugs," Lina said.

Arroyo arrived at the Napolcom office in Makati at around 4 p.m. He left shortly after the suspects were presented to the media. ***With a report from Leila B. Salaverria***

Leave Iraq now, 118 Filipinos told

From page A1

Macapagal's evacuation order came what Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson described as "a slowdown or temporary stop in the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq."

Imson stressed that the ban, to be implemented by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, would not affect the deployment of Filipinos to other Middle East countries.

He dismissed speculation that the President's evacuation order was based on advance information that the US government would attack Iraq this week.

Precautionary move

"The President's decision does not mean that there is an imminent danger to Filipino workers. It is more of a precautionary move," he told reporters in a phone interview.

The Filipinos in Iraq include 12 overseas Filipino workers, 10 Philippine Embassy staff members and their 13 dependents, 30 United Nations peace-keeping personnel and 53 employees of international organizations.

They will be taken on a bus ride—10 hours if traffic is smooth, double the time if not—over a 1,000-kilometer highway from Baghdad to Amman, capital of neighboring Jordan, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople recommended the immediate evacuation on the basis of a report by Albert del Rosario, the Philippines' ambassador to the United States.

Del Rosario said he had told US Assistant State Secretary for Asia-Pacific James Kelly that he would recommend an early evacuation of Filipinos from Iraq. Kelly was said to have remarked that this was a "sound decision."

"On my part, I believe that the recommendation of Ambassador Del Rosario is well based and reasonable," Ople, who is in New York, said in a Sept. 10 memorandum to the President. "We would (rather) err on the side of prudence."

Ople also made clear that the evacuation from Iraq would not yet involve the "major movement (of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos in the Middle East) that we have planned for."

Excellent

By way of explaining her choice of Cimatu, the President described him as "excellent in logistics."

She said she did not have to tell "someone who has captured 46 camps" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front "what to do anymore."

It is Cimatu who will decide if and when evacuation will be necessary for Filipinos working in other Middle East countries that may be affected by the war, she said.

There are around 1.2 million Filipino workers in the Middle East. During the 1991 US-Iraq war, Filipinos in countries around Iraq were brought to a safe country in the region.

At a luncheon with reporters yesterday, Ms Macapagal phoned Ople in New York and told him that Cimatu would head the "crisis committee" on the Middle East situation.

"He said it's a splendid idea," she said later, beaming.

She added that a representative each of the DFA and of the labor department would assist Cimatu.

But the President's aide who was to inform Cimatu of his appointment failed to reach him in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

Giggling, Ms Macapagal told reporters that she should get to Cimatu first before the news came out in the media.

She recalled with a laugh how former President Fidel Ramos "rejected" being her special envoy to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the issue of the expulsion of Filipinos from Sabah.

"He said it was better that I call up Mahathir myself. (Cimatu) might reject this assignment. He might say, 'You can call up (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein.' But we're not phone pals. I've not met him yet," Ms Macapagal said, still laughing.

The President also defended the government's decision to let Iraq-bound US fighter planes use Philippine air space.

"That use of air space is part of the general agreement we made in accordance with our response to the UN Security Council's resolution (last year on fighting terrorism). That is still in force," she said.

She also said Ople had not reported any official request from the Iraqi Embassy for the government to reconsider this indirect assistance to the US campaign. ***(See boxed story.)***

Reluctant

Imson said that despite the evacuation order, some of the Filipinos in Iraq were reluctant to leave.

"They are saying that what they experience there is not as serious as the way we project the situation here," he said.

To transport the Filipinos from Jordan to Manila, the government will draw from the P900-million reserve fund of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Imson said.

Imson said the money was set aside for use in emergency situations.

Imson said the labor department had started making preparations for the evacuation.

He said Dubai-based labor welfare officer Ferdie Roxas had been sent to Jordan to assist in the "documentation and movement" of Filipinos coming from Iraq.

Imson described Roxas as experienced, having helped move Filipino workers in the Middle East during the Gulf War.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said that upon crossing the Iraqi-Jordanian border, the Filipinos would be transferred to the care of the embassy in Amman.

"Their accommodations in Amman would be taken care of by the government (for a reasonably limited time)," Lecaros told the INQUIRER.

It will be up to the Filipinos to decide whether they will fly to Manila or wait until the danger in Iraq has passed, he said.

"I would like to think that they would have the means to come home," Lecaros said. "There is a limit to what the government can give."

He said the evacuation could be conducted in a gradual and systematic manner, given the relatively small number of people involved.

"And besides, Iraq is a friendly country," he added.

Iraq tells RP to rethink stand

FOR the past 12 years, more than 1.7 million Iraqis, mostly women and children, have died because of the economic embargo that the US government unjustly imposed on Iraq, the Iraqi Embassy in Manila said yesterday.

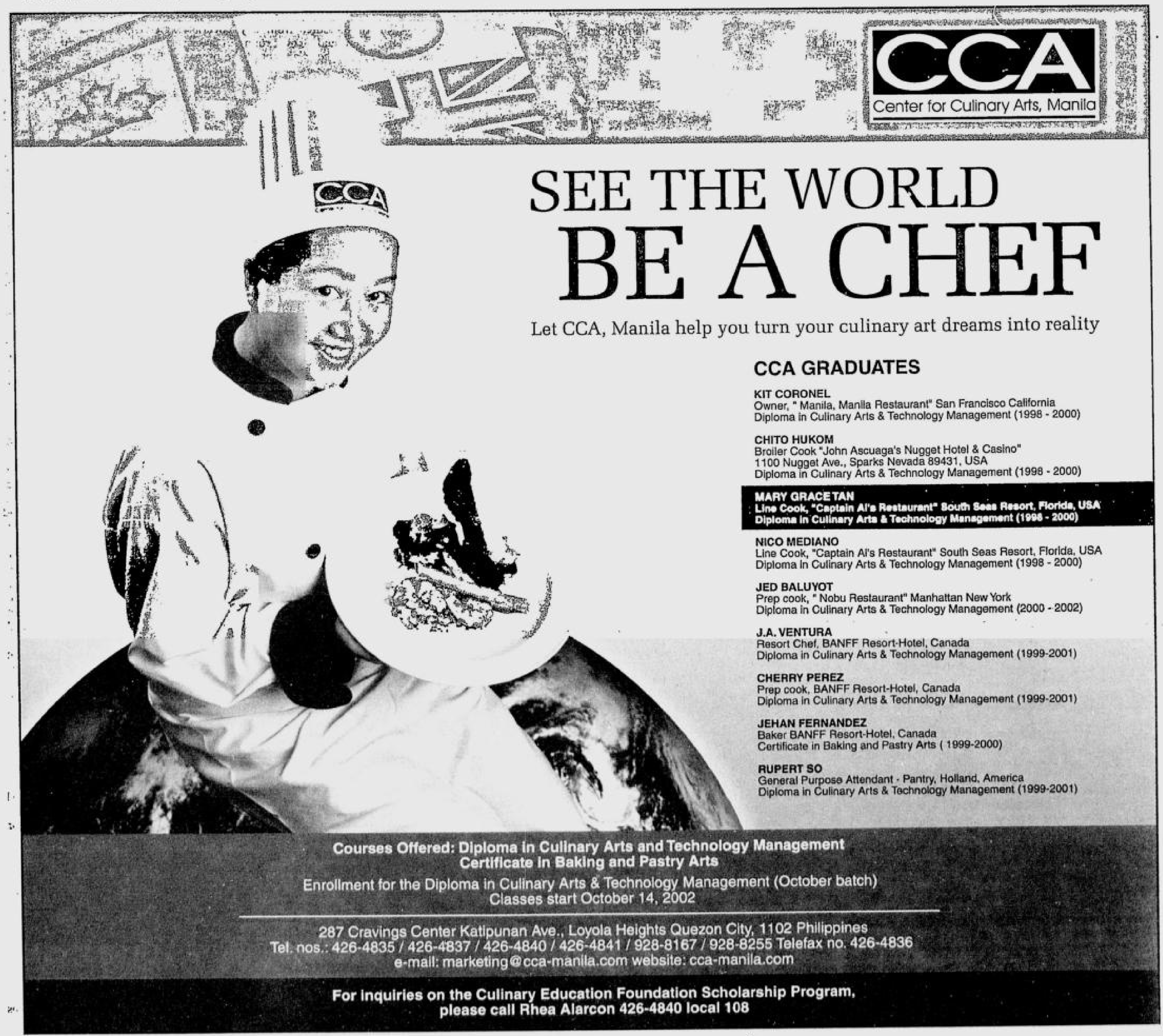
"We hope that under such context, the Philippine government can rethink its position on the matter," Iraqi *charge d'affaires* Samir Masih Bolus said in a press statement.

Bolus was referring to Malacañang's recent announcement that the US government would be allowed to use Philippine air space if it decided to act against Iraq in the context of the global war against terrorism.

"A terrorist pales in comparison with the mass murderer. In the case of Iraq, the US has behaved in both manners," Bolus said.

He added: "We would like to stress that Iraq is also against all forms of terrorism, and not once in our history have we condoned acts of terrorism or sheltered or supported any terrorist group.

"In this regard, we have expressed our sympathy with the families of the victims of Sept. 11. We hope that justice, not revenge, will prevail in the end." ***Norman Bordadora***



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NY wrapped in silence

From page A1

Rudolph Giuliani, the former mayor who guided the city with quiet strength in the days after last Sept. 11, began a reading of the names of the 2,801 souls who lost their lives where the trade center once stood.

"Gordon M. Aamoth Jr.," he intoned. "Edelmiro Abad. Maria Rose Abad. Andrew Anthony Abate ..."

The time was 8:46 a.m. EDT (1246 GMT), the instant when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the gargantuan complex. As the mournful tones of classical music played in the background, family members of the dead picked up the list where

Giuliani left off, and onlookers hugged and cried. ***(Filipina nurse Rebecca Canalija was one of the readers. Story on Page A1.)***

Other sad places

The lower Manhattan ceremony was the first of three tableaux at the sites of last year's attacks. Next would come ceremonies at the Pentagon, where 184 men and women died, and at a field in southwestern Pennsylvania, where 40 passengers and crewmembers lost their lives in the crash of United Airlines Flight 93.

But the day's memorials were hardly limited to those sad places. ***(See The World, Page A10).***

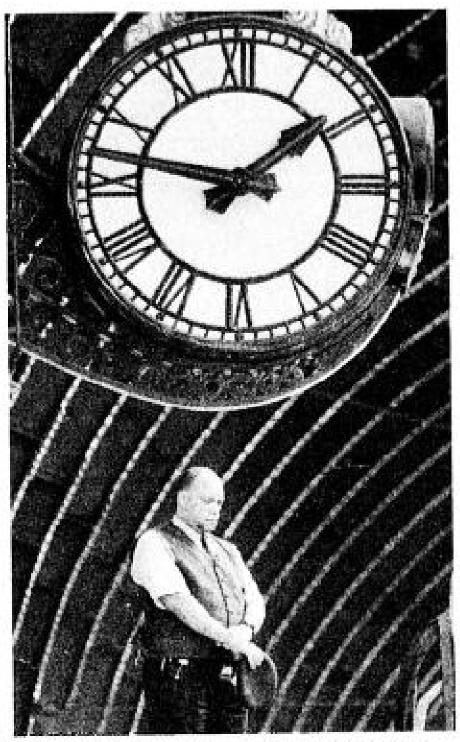
A cascade of memorial events around the globe marked a moment whose echoes still resound from New York to Afghanistan, and everywhere in between—a moment that even a year later left many transfixed by the horror, burdened by sadness, plagued by fears.

In the Vatican, Pope John Paul II said, "No situation of hurt, no philosophy or religion can ever justify such a grave offense on human life and dignity."

At London's St. Paul's cathedral, 3,000 white rose petals fluttered down from the dome—one for each victim who died on Dept. 11.

In Afghanistan, a small piece of the World Trade Center was buried under the flagpole of the US Embassy as bugler played taps and the Stars and Stripes was lowered to half mast.

A steel-gray marble headstone marked the resting place of the remains brought from the ruined towers by a Marine from New York. Inscribed on it: "We serve because they cannot."



TRAIN assistant observes a one-minute silence to pay his respect to to the victims of 9/11.
REUTERS

Sound of bagpipes

In the days after the towers fell, New Yorkers grew accustomed to the sound of bagpipes at hundreds of funerals for firefighters and police. Early Wednesday, bagpipers and drummers assembled for a relay—from the five boroughs of New York City, two at a time, to Ground Zero.

But while the focus is on the places that suffered the most, ceremonies marking Sept. 11—prayer, the tolling of bells, candlelight vigils, releases of doves and balloons, riderless horses, flags at half-staff, moments of silence and others of music—were everywhere.

There were homier demonstrations, as well. In Montgomery, Alabama, at E.D. Nixon Elementary School, sixth graders and their teachers baked cookies to bring to their local firefighters. It was their idea, said principal Terese Goodson: "They just wanted to do something."

And yes, Goodson replied to their pleading, they could add a touch of red to their white-blue-and-khaki uniforms on Sept. 11.

Fifteen percent of American businesses planned to give their employees red-white-and-blue ribbons or pins for the day, according to a survey by the Society for Human Resource Management; about a third said they would observe a moment of silence on Wednesday. Just 4 percent said they would give their workers the day off with pay.

The stock exchanges delayed their openings until after 11 a.m. Telemarketers hung up their phones. Said Perry Young, head of a calling center in Omaha: "If I received a call at home on that day from somebody trying to sell me something, I would be personally offended." As they did a year ago, television networks struck everything else from their schedules.

Legendary heroism

Some airlines—still struggling to regain passenger traffic they lost a year ago—scaled back their schedules, as travelers avoided the skies on this day.

A year ago, it is believed passengers and crew members on United Flight 93 fought desperately with the hijackers who had commandeered their plane. All 40 died, but the plane never reached its target—the Capitol? the White House?—and their heroism became legend.

On Tuesday, 500 of their friends and relatives went to the spot in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 crashed. Clutching flowers and flags, they walked the field where the plane crashed.

But other survivors kept their distance from an anniversary of heartache.

Barbara Minervino of Middletown, New Jersey, planned to attend a private Mass along with others from that town, which lost dozens of its people at the World Trade Center. Louis Minervino was at his 98th floor office in Tower One when the first jet hit.

But she had no intention of going to lower Manhattan on Wednesday. She would do the laundry, go to the beach with her two daughters, make dinner—her husband's favorite, lasagna. She wanted to honor his life, not his death.

"We are in our new normalcy," she said. "It's not the normalcy we had before. We're without our loved ones. It certainly will never be the normalcy we had on Sept. 10."

AP, Reuters

AFP

WORKERS stand inside what remain of the World Trade Center.

Bush marks 'day of tears,' defiant

From page A1

America's role in the world," the president said in a newspaper column, published on the anniversary of the deaths of thousands claimed by terrorists who struck in New York, Pennsylvania and the nation's military nerve center.

"We will not let those who died fade from our memories," said Maj. Gen. Gaylord Gunhus, the Army's chaplain.

Bush, members of his Cabinet, congressional leaders, beribboned military officers and a crowd of several thousand gathered outside the Pentagon for a ceremony that was part memorial to the dead and part celebration of the rapidly rebuilt building.

Bush also was traveling to Pennsylvania, where a plane—possibly headed for the Capitol building—crashed into the countryside. Then to New York, where the World Trade Center Twin Towers collapsed after taking separate hits from two hijacked jetliners.

Bush said in a newspaper opinion piece that greeted New Yorkers Wednesday morning, "We have the best opportunity in generations to build a world where great powers cooperate in peace instead of continually prepare for war."

Americans watched the observances on television screens, which often were split with images from Washington and New York, where the names of victims were solemnly read at Ground Zero hours before the president arrived.

St. John's Church

Grim-faced and gripping first lady Laura Bush's hand, Bush began his day with prayer at the yellow-steepled St. John's Church where presidential aides fled just minutes after the White House was evacuated last Sept. 11.

"Sept. 11 is a day we are never going to forget—are we?" the Rev. Luis Leon asked the congregation. "But it did not break us. They have bloodied us but they did not break us."

Bush leaned forward and slowly nodded his head in agreement.

Later, on the South Lawn of the White House, the president squinted into the sun in silence at 8:46 a.m. (1246GMT) the moment that the first plane hit New York's World Trade Center one year ago.

At the Pentagon, the changes forced by last Sept. 11 were boldly on display. Flags draped the building, and in one office window was a taped sign that declared, "Marian, we miss you!"

Unlike the circling path that Air Force One took away from the attacks' epicenter a year ago, the president's purposeful journey on their anniversary was to touch each of the scars left by four hijacked airliners that struck in Washington, New York City and Pennsylvania.

As commander in chief, one who hopes Americans and overseas allies alike will be emboldened to expand the antiterror war into Iraq, Bush also was addressing military personnel at the Pentagon, which was struck by the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77.

Space of green

St. John's, where Bush began what he called "hard day," stands beside the Lafayette Square space of green that White House workers, following the shouted commands of Secret Service agents, used to evacuate the Executive Mansion.

The orders were given at a time when it seemed possible that a fourth hijacked airliner was headed toward the capital. That plane crashed in western Pennsylvania.

Some of the 40 passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 are believed to have fought their hijackers and perhaps caused the plane to crash in a field.

Bush's own tribute in southwestern Pennsylvania was to be a silent one—the laying of a wreath, the embrace of those left behind. He has, in his every speech for months, honored the Flight 93 heroism as "the most vivid and sad symbol" of the kind of American solidarity that was reborn in the attacks.

At Ground Zero, the massive pit where the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center once stood, Bush was meeting with the victims' families before making a televised address Wednesday night from Ellis Island, with the Statue of Liberty as his backdrop.

AP

Dick Cheney . . .

From page A1

alert Wednesday, as memories of the Sept. 11 attacks intensified fears surrounding numerous new but unconfirmed threats.

US embassies and those of America's closest allies closed in nine countries. Police and troops wielding automatic rifles, sometimes backed by armored vehicles, patrolled outside diplomatic compounds.

Even so, US officials told Americans to go ahead with their plans to commemorate Sept. 11 at gatherings and stick to their work, school or travel schedules.

The message came attached to an announcement by Attorney General John Ashcroft that US intelligence had uncovered the first specific threats against US interests abroad and less credible information that terrorists might attack America again.

"US intelligence has concluded that lower-level al-Qaida operatives may view the Sept. 11 anniversary as a suitable time to lash out in even small strikes to demonstrate their worldwide presence and resolve," Ashcroft said Tuesday.

"Widely dispersed, unsophisticated strikes are possible," he warned.

President George W. Bush approved raising the nationwide alert level from code yellow—which indicates a "significant risk" of attacks—to code orange. This meant there's a "high risk" of attacks. In case of a "severe risk," code red would be raised.

Code orange has been the highest alert level imposed since the system was established in March.

On Wednesday, security precautions in the US capital were expected to rival measures taken immediately after last year's attacks.

Access restricted

Across the country, access was restricted to public places and events. Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, announcing security measures at the state capitol, told residents, "You should probably bring your driver's license" to the building.

Local police were on edge. They urged residents to report any suspicious activity.

"There's no such thing as a stupid phone call," said Lt. Kelly Willis, spokesperson for the police department in Des Moines, Iowa. "We're here to be bothered."

The intelligence community believes the most likely targets at home and abroad are transportation and energy facilities or other symbols of US power, such as military facilities, embassies and national monuments, Ashcroft said.

US officials took little comfort in the fact that the threats focused on overseas targets; a similar pattern was detected just before the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Americans need to go about their lives," Bush said. "They just need to know that their government, at the federal and state and local level, will be on an extra level of alert to protect us."

Bush planned to travel Wednesday under extraordinarily tight security to the sites of last year's attacks at the Pentagon, in New York City and in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Secret Service bolstered security around the White House, paying special attention to vehicles on a nearby road recently closed to trucks.

Among the 15 or so US diplomatic posts closed overseas, the embassy in Jakarta and a consular office in Surabaya, both in Indonesia, were shut down due to what officials called credible and specific information about security threats.

Despite no evidence of a plot against America, the Sept. 11 anniversary and threats of attacks against US interests abroad made officials nervous enough to seek the higher threat status.

Al-Qaida tip

A grim-faced Ashcroft said US intelligence, based on information from a senior al-Qaida operative in the last day or so, believed terrorists operating in several South Asian countries hope to explode car bombs or launch other attacks on US facilities abroad.

The plans are believed linked directly to al-Qaida, rather than one of its affiliates, said a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The al-Qaida operative who provided some of the information has been in the custody of an unidentified foreign country for several months, but he has not been publicly identified.

Ashcroft said the government also had learned of plans in the Middle East to launch one or more suicide attacks against US interests.

"At this time, we have no specific information as to where these attacks might occur," Ashcroft said.

The state department issued a notice of "worldwide caution" to Americans abroad.

Other measures

The General Services Administration, which operates and provides security for most federal buildings, implemented new security procedures.

The Environmental Protection Agency ordered water system operators to bolster security.

The agriculture department told meat inspectors to look for anything suspicious.

Military bases worldwide were put on higher alert this week because of the anniversary, and the military resumed 24-hour fighter jet patrols over New York City and Washington.

On Capitol Hill, the House sergeant at arms installed steel cabinets in the press gallery to store "escape hoods" that allow people to breathe in case of a biological or chemical attack. Congress has bought 25,000 of them.

Southeast Asia

Overseas, tension was highest in Southeast Asia, a region sometimes labeled a second front in the US-led international fight against terrorism because of the presence of al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist groups in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. The United States signed an antiterrorism pact with the region's governments last month and sent military trainers to the Philippines.

Six US diplomatic offices in the region—embassies in Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam as well as consulates in Indonesia and Vietnam—closed Wednesday after what officials called "credible and specific" threats to security.

Embassies were also closed in Pakistan, Malawi, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The US Embassy in Bahrain posted a statement on its Internet website saying credible indications were received that further terrorist acts are planned and "such actions may be imminent and include suicide operations."

In Afghanistan, a gunman fired Wednesday at a guard tower at Bagram, headquarters of US-led forces hunting remnants from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and his supporters. Soldiers returned fire, but the gunman escaped.

The shooting occurred hours before a Sept. 11 memorial ceremony at the base. Security at the base, however, was not upgraded for the anniversary.

In the southeastern Afghan city of Khost, unidentified attackers fired two rockets Wednesday at the airport base of US Special Forces. No injuries were reported.

In Jakarta, police fired blank warning shots at demonstrators a few meters from the embassy. The demonstration was unrelated to Sept. 11, but the clash underscored security fears.

Britain and Australia—among the closest US military allies—either closed their diplomatic offices or otherwise boosted security in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

In East Timor, a former Indonesian territory, Australia closed its diplomatic office after officials received unconfirmed and "generic" terrorist threats.

South Pacific

Jitters began in the South Pacific, and followed the sun.

In Australia, which sent troops to Afghanistan and has a sizable Muslim migrant community, police said they were on heightened alert but had received no specific threats.

"It's a time for great vigilance," Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson said, but added the public should not panic.

At the world's tallest buildings, the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, about 20 uniformed guards watched as workers and visitors entered through metal detectors installed after a bomb scare last Sept. 12, about 12 hours after the attacks in the United States.

"The whole world is on alert, so why should we be any different?" said Hanif Ahmad, Petronas general manager of corporate security.

Tourists lined up as usual to visit the 41st-floor skybridge that connects the 88-story towers. It's the only part of the buildings not restricted to business tenants.

"If a plane hits the towers, there is nothing we can do," Ghassan Nasry, 32, a tourist from Saudi Arabia, told The Associated Press. "But I am not worried at all. I think Malaysia is a much safer place than America."

In Hamburg, Germany, where three of the Sept. 11 hijackers lived, police searched a mosque after receiving a tip that a man was inside preparing explosives for an attack.

In London, armed police were deployed throughout the city to sites identified as potential targets. They were told to be on the lookout for lone bombers and gunmen who could use the anniversary to strike.

"We shouldn't just think about the ghastly spectacular attacks that have already taken place but also the range of possibilities that smaller groups and individuals may use," David Veness, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorism squad, said at a recent briefing.

London's Heathrow airport said that British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and American Airlines had canceled 18 trans-Atlantic flights. Two Continental flights to New York from Gatwick airport were also canceled.

AP

Bacolod bet guns for title

FRESH from capturing the RLB 7-Stag Derby title two weeks ago, Bacolod cocker Bobby Wong guns for another crown tonight when the "1st Ucap Firebird MB 7-Stag Derby" championship round unfolds at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Free Mite, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc.

Wong's Flyover bet racked up three impressive victories in last Tuesday's elimination round (41 entries) to lead the qualifiers. Also with three wins are Maj. Bobby Doromal (Nong Bob), Eric de la Rosa (Sept. 13 4-Stag Pasay EDR), Dr. A. Tuazon (AUT Gamefarm), Jingco Brothers (Sto. Cristo), Louie Cua (LCC Oct. 22-24) and Alex Tang (Guts and Glory).

With 2.5 points are engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB) and OPMI president Vic Yu (King Boxer).

The two-day stagfest being hosted by hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez serves as the kick-off leg of the exciting Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2002 race.

Meanwhile, the "2nd Ucap Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby" is all set next week, Sept. 17, and 19. Derby host is Ucap president Raymond Velayo.

For other details, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 524-4110.

Pampanga stagfest offering ₱5 million

PROMINENT cockers and breeders from Metro Manila will challenge their counterparts in Pampanga in the "2nd Annual Sagupaan Complexor 3000 5-Stag Derby," on Sept. 20 at the Pampanga Coliseum.

At stake is a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Every champion will get one imported brood cock, courtesy of Sagupaan Game farm. Entry fee is P22,000 and minimum bet is P11,000. Promoted by *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, the derby has confirmed the participation of Louie Cua, Jessie Viceo, Bobby Wong, Biboy Enriquez, Raymund Velayo, Ram Lopez, Pol Estrellado, Nestor Alcala, Blandy Tolentino, defending champion Bobby Cabillon, Mario Villamor, Vic Yu, Boy de Roca, Tony Lasala, Gerry Ramos, Sonny Lagon and Mayor Nene Aguilar.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY Yankees 5, Baltimore 2; NY Yankees 3, Baltimore 1 (second game); Boston 12, Tampa Bay 1; Toronto 5, Cleveland 4; Minnesota 11, Detroit 4; Texas 3, Seattle 2; Chi White Sox 12, Kansas City 4; Anaheim 5, Oakland 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 6, Philadelphia 4; Florida 2, Philadelphia 1; Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 0; Atlanta 12, NY Mets 6; Houston 11, Colorado 4; Montreal 6, Chicago Cubs 2; St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 3; Arizona 8, San Diego 2; San Francisco 5, Los Angeles 2.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: Fred Meyer Golf Challenge at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN
PGA Bell Canadian Open at 2 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Star Sports
BASEBALL: This Week in Baseball at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN
BOXING: Fight Time on Fox 2002 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports
SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. on Star Sports
Futbol Mundial at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

ASIAN GAMES

'RP gets clean bill of health'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TEAM Philippines is in the pink of health.

Dr. Raul Canlas, medical chief of the Philippine delegation to the Asian Games, made that diagnosis yesterday after examining 90 percent of the 218 athletes bound for Busan, South Korea.

Aside from some athletes who still need "counseling," practically everybody bound for Busan has been given a clean bill of health--physically and psychologically.

Still, Canlas said there are athletes who are "not as focused in competing" like the rest of the delegation. He advised them to undergo sessions with sports psychologists.

"There won't be any psychologist in Busan, so they have to finish the counseling sessions here before flying to Busan," said Canlas. "But it is going to be just a routine session to make sure they are all psyched up for competition."

The athletes were tested on doping (for performance-enhancing substances as well as narcotics like marijuana and shabu), nutrition, muscular, chest, ECG, blood levels and dentures.

He noted that the Philippines has a "clean slate" in terms of doping tests in international competitions, which he attributed to "our stringent doping exams here."

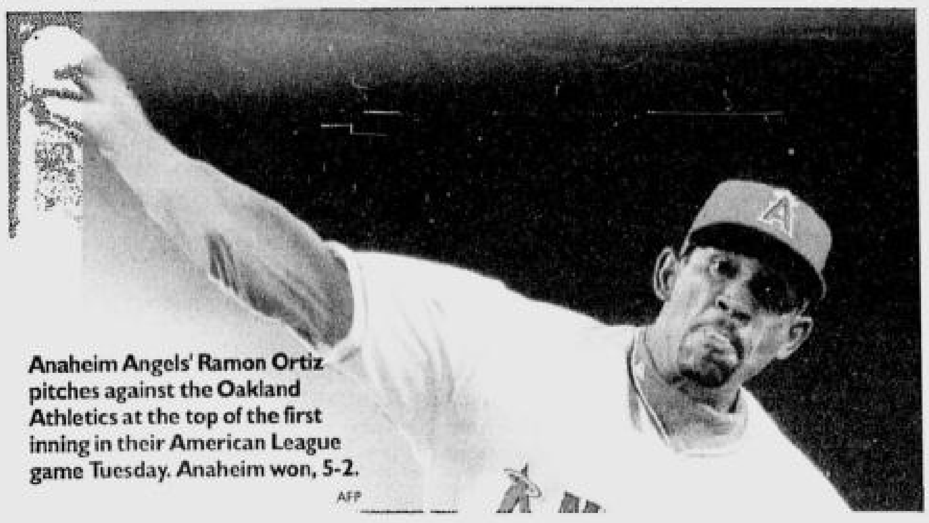
The PCSM also conducted several lectures to the all-pro basketball squad as well as the bodybuilding team and updated them of the kinds of drugs which are prohibited in international competitions.

Canlas, who will be leading an 11-man team to Busan, said the entire wushu squad and several equestrians, who are still wrapping up tune-up competitions, are yet to undergo tests before the end of the week.

"I can safely say that the national athletes are physically and psychologically fit for the Asian Games," said Canlas, who also denied reports that some members of the delegation have dropped out due to injuries.

"There are injuries to some but these are just minor and not bad enough to force them out of the team," he said.

Joining Canlas in the Asiad medical team are Dr. Marion Rivera, Dr. Albert Jerome Quintos, nurse Elenita Constantino, physical therapist Emmanuel Punelas, masseurs Marilou Andaquig and masseurs Venancio Avila, Nicasio Sagayno and Josefino Hizon.



Anaheim Angels' Ramon Ortiz pitches against the Oakland Athletics at the top of the first inning in their American League game Tuesday. Anaheim won, 5-2.

AFP

12 teams dispute football crown

TWELVE teams--four each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao--will dispute the PFF (Philippine Football Federation) national men's championship on Oct. 15-20 in Bacolod City.

Divided into three groups, the national finalists are:

Group A—Negros Occidental, Dipolog, Cebu and Baguio

Group B—Province of Rizal, NCR-Philippine Air Force, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo.

Group C—Negros Oriental, Davao, Iligan and Masbate.

Elimination round matches will be held in different football fields with the semifinal and final matches slated at the Pana-ad Stadium.

The lady is an angler

COMMENTARY

Vic Vic Villavicencio

IF you think big game, or heavy tackle, angling is only for the boys, think again. Ana Ma. "Mayenn" G. Ordoveza is one lady who will give any macho angler a run for his money. Mayenn, even this early in the year, is already the hands down winner of the 2002 Heavy Tackle Angler of the Year title.

PGFF president Rey Buencamino had been leading in this category after four tournaments. But Mayenn outfished Rey in that recent Palawan tournament, and when the points were computed, it was the lady whose fishing star shone brighter, winning by a thin margin of 0.752 points.

No freak win, that one, either. You see, Mayenn has been an active competitor since she joined the PGFF 11 years ago "just to be able to receive fishing info, newsletters and flyers on tournaments." But she also joined competitions that year and distinguished herself significantly enough to be elected president of the 52-year-old fishing club on her second year.

If that is not proof of this lady's fishing skills, get this: Mayenn holds 13 national fishing records, including a 55.10-kg thresher shark on a 50-lb line, a 41-kg Pacific sailfish on a 30-lb line, a 23.5 great barracuda on a 12-lb line and a 9-kilo wahoo on a 6-lb line.

Talk of lady anglers and old timers recall names like Pat Osias and Rosie Valencia; and, more recently, Tina Bernasconi. This year the reigning angling queen is, without a doubt, Mayenn Ordoveza.

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Megamall presenting Car Show

THE 2002 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show will be held on Sept. 25-29 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The motor racing-inspired event will once again gather the motoring enthusiasts into one venue to display and showcase the latest in motor sports, high performance speed parts, suspension upgrades, aero body kits, pro-street/race motors and vehicle customizing and race setups.

Several racecars will be on display such as formula cars, saloon cars, drag cars, rally cars and off-road 4x4 racing trucks.

Organized by TradeShow International Inc. (TSI), this year's show theme is all about "muscle car" which was coined in the early sixties when American car companies were dishing out high performance automobiles designed for straight-line acceleration or for the drag strips.

These cars were equipped with large displacement V-8 motors of up to 450 cubic inches and rated at up to 500 horsepower in stock trim.

The show is presented by Caltex Delo and co-presented by Motolite Car Batteries. Gold sponsor is Yokohama Tires while the major sponsors are Ambi Pur and Sunrise Holiday Concepts.

The official radio stations are Magic 89.9, 103.5 K-lite, 99.5 RT, Wave 89.1, Citylite 88.3, Powerhouse Communication and BMB Karaoke Superband.

For inquiries, call 671-8381 or 671-8382.

HOYA FIGHTS AGAIN
Oscar De La Hoya, seen at left in this file photo of his fight against Hector "Macho" Camacho some years back, returns to the ring anew when he fights Fernando Vargas on Sunday in Las Vegas in a bout dubbed "Bad Blood." Scheduled for 12 rounds, they will contest both the WBA junior middleweight and WBC super welterweight titles. De La Hoya is a 2-1 favorite in only his second fight at 154 pounds and his first since he beat Javier Castillejo 15 months ago to win the WBC title.

England, Scotland offer one minute silence

LONDON—Tributes to victims of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States will be held Wednesday at sporting events across Europe.

In England and Scotland, one minute of silence will be observed before league soccer games on Tuesday and Wednesday to mark the one-year anniversary of the attacks.

Players will wear black armbands in English Premier League games.

Minutes of silence were also planned Wednesday at soccer games in Germany and France.

In England, American goalkeepers Brad Friedel (Blackburn) and Kasey Keller (Tottenham) and midfielder Claudio Reyna (Sunderland) were also set to play in Premier League games.

Friedel's wife, Tracy, is from New York, and she has a cousin who survived the attacks on the World Trade Center.

"Obviously it hit home with myself, but things happen all over the world," Friedel said Tuesday. "Nobody's religion is right or wrong. Everyone should have their own opinion on why these things happen, you just have to deal with them as they come."

Friedel said he has no problem with playing on the Sept. 11 anniversary.

"We played a game directly after last year against Oldham, and having football to deal with was actually a great relief from it all," he said.

In Italy, the Sept. 11 anniversary will be marked by a charity soccer match in Milan between Formula One race car drivers and fashion designers. *AP*

Gov't sounds alarm call

By Greg Heakes
AFP Sportswriter

LOS ANGELES—Professional sports teams will have contingency plans at the ready during America's heightened state of alert on the one-year anniversary of the terror attacks on the World Trade Center.

Major League Baseball spokesman Pat Courtney told ESPN's web site that a directive was sent out a couple of weeks ago "requesting clubs to review and implement various security precautions for games on and surrounding Sept. 11." Courtney said he knew of no new memos being sent out in the past few days.

To mark the one-year anniversary of the attacks, special tributes are also being planned in all 15 cities where Major League Baseball games are being played.

The US does not plan to cancel any major sporting events during the period straddling the anniversary date.

But the US government is urging groups to take additional precautions at public events to ensure safety.

New York Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone said they had already stepped up security in the wake of the attacks and that the heightened state of alert will not significantly change procedures at Yankee Stadium. New York hosts Baltimore on Wednesday as part of the club's 14-game homestand.

"We're doing the same procedures as far as hand and wand searches go," Cerrone told ESPN. "But we're not doing anything completely different from what we've been doing all year." The National Football League doesn't have games until Sunday.

"We will be assessing the situation as it develops throughout the week," said Greg Aiello, spokesman for the NFL said.

Three months ago, the FBI said on its web site that sports stadiums could be possible targets for attackers. The notice specifically mentioned the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis and Indianapolis' RCA Dome, ESPN reported.

SPECTACULAR HOMECOMING

Yugoslavia hails 'Golden Gods'

By Kkatarina Kratovac
AP Sportswriter

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia—Belgrade staged a spectacular homecoming party Tuesday to welcome the national basketball team that won gold at the world championships last weekend.

About 100,000 fans gathered at the capital's main square to hail the twelve "Golden Gods," as the local media dubbed the players who won the tournament in Indianapolis after beating Argentina in the final.

President Vojislav Kostunica delayed his flight to New York—where he is set to attend a Sept. 11 commemoration and a UN General Assembly meeting—to congratulate the players as they landed.

Also at the airport, Prime Minister Dragisa Pesic told the players, who had their medals dangling around their necks, that their "magical basketball wizardry will forever shine in our gratitude."

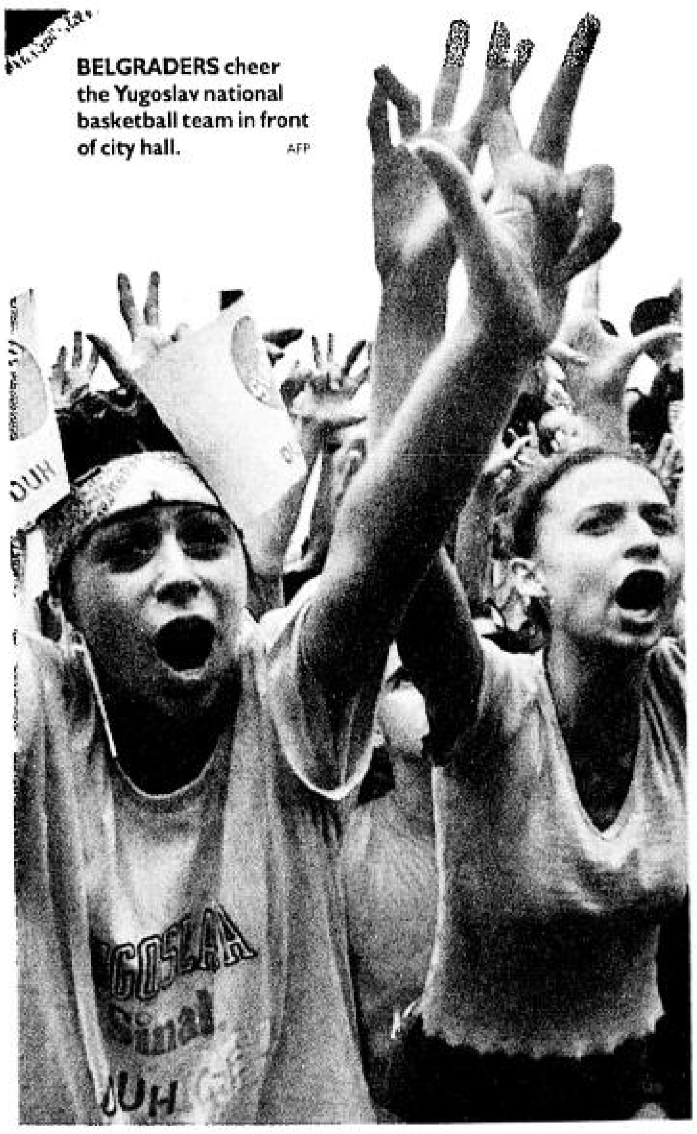
For Yugoslavs, whose team became the first to repeat as world champion since Brazil in 1963, the intensity of the patriotic outpour reflected the country's desperation to boost national confidence after years of the ruinous rule of former president Slobodan Milosevic.

Shunned for years by democratic nations critical of Milosevic's decade-long autocratic policies, Yugoslavs are now struggling to join Europe's mainstream under a democratic government.

Traffic was paralyzed in the city center as the team bus drove through streets lined with flag-waving and screaming fans.

As the players climbed onto the City Hall balcony, a crowd of about 100,000 applauded.

The incident-free party was a sharp contrast from the rampage early Monday when hundreds of thousands of fans hit the streets, shooting guns and rifles in the air, looting and wrecking kiosks and store windows in the center in a frenzy following the 84-77 overtime victory over Argentina.



BELGRADERS cheer the Yugoslav national basketball team in front of city hall. AFP

Bernis, Bayron pace Riviera meet

FORMER national player Jay Bayron and Jun Bernis shot similar one-over-par 73s on Tuesday to set the early pace after the first round of the Riviera Amateur Golf Championship at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite.

Bayron and Bernis bucked the inclement weather to shoot the day's low scores as they picked up from where the members of the national team to the Busan Asian Games left off.

The national players were pulled out at the last minute by the National Golf Association of the Philippines after getting clearance from the organizers in Busan, Korea that they can fly early and start their training there. The team left yesterday.

"The last minute decision left everybody disappointed because most of those who joined the championship division were expecting to play against the national players," said Riviera general manager John Blanch. "But since it's for the best interest of the Philippine campaign, I guess we'll have to understand the team."

Fil-Am golf limits field to 60 teams

THE FIL-AM Golf Invitational, the world's largest tournament according to the Guinness Book of Records, is set in December with Smart Communications as presenter and College Assurance Plan (CAP) and Northwest Airlines as major sponsors.

The six-day event starts Dec. 2 in the scenic courses of Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club in Baguio City, the country's summer capital.

"On behalf of all the people involved, we would like to express our gratitude to Smart, CAP and Northwest for their generous support," said executive committee co-chairmen Heiner Maulbecker and Anthony de Leon.

Maulbecker is the Camp John Hay general manager while De Leon is the Baguio Country Club deputy general manager. Shean Bedi is the tournament's overall coordinator.

A field of 60 teams, some of them coming from the United States, Middle East, Japan and China, have been invited to play in the championship which has its beginnings in 1949.

GM TORRE BOOK
Grandmaster Eugene Torre (second from right) is joined by aspiring chess greats during the launch of his book "The Next Wave: Rising Stars of Philippine Chess" staged by Belgosa and Active Chess Center of Asia. Also in photo (from left) are Saturnino G. Belen, Jun Calditaran, Butch Llamas, Nicolai TSvetkov of the Russian embassy and Norwegian Ambassador Paul Moe, who was the keynote speaker.

Astrazeneca bowlers lead Century Park winners

ASTRAZENECA posted 2164 points to top the 8th Inter-Pharmaceutical Bowling Tournament held recently at the Coronado Lanes in Pasay Road, Makati.

Defending champion Wyeth-Philippines settled for second with 1971, towing Mead Johnson with 1875 in the tournament sponsored by Century Park Sheraton hotel.

Other companies which competed were Novartis Healthcare, Aventis, Bristol Myers, Pediatrica, Boreringer Ingelheim, Bayer, UAP, Boie Takeda, Abbott, Pfizer, Westmont and Glaxo Smithkline.

Century Park Comptroller Alan Lee's rolled the ceremonial ball while sales and marketing director Liza San Juan delivered the closing remarks.

Highest score for male went to Chad Carugin of Astrazeneca and the highest score for female went to Maryrose Inguillo of Wyeth. Novartis copped the best in team spirit award even as Coline Gonzales of Bristol Myers took the best in form award.

Retuya seeks weekend sweep

SHELL Racing's Joel Retuya and Jolet Jao try to move closer to their coveted crowns as they gun for crucial victories in the 2002 Casino Filipino Grand Prix this weekend, Sept. 14-15, at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Retuya, a native of Cebu, will be gunning for a sweep to gain the psychological advantage for the 2002 Formula Toyota Cup plum against teammate Mandy Borja, Team TEC's Carlo Pastor and Victor Yap in this penultimate leg of the series sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Philippines, Casino Filipino, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and Kilton Motors Corporation.

The multititled Jao, carrying the colors of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering, is almost sure of the Expert title in the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association (Namssa) even if he loses against closest rivals Toti Alberto of Access Plus-Ducati Manila and Rod Scott of RS Racing.

RACING TIPS

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Race 4–1. Praetorian 2. Exchange Deal 3. Schwarzenegger 4. Naughty
Race 5–1. Precious Janina 2. Kentucky News 3. High Typhoon
Race 6–1. Are You Happy 2. Super Dancer 3. Patago 4. Sea Wolf 5. Count Me In
Race 7–1. Terminal Bound 2. Ikaw 3. Brenda Starr 4. Michael's Way 5. Sexy Royale
Race 8–1. Ginger Space 2. Manlaman 3. Time Specialist 4. Aringkingking
Race 9–1. Bulakaña 2. Dimasupil 3. Glamour Girl 4. Talk To Patsy 5. Mister Cool 6 Lotshaveaparty

Armenian inflicts Kasparov 2nd defeat

THE REST of the World banked on victories by Armenia's Vladimir Akopian and Israel's Boris Gelfand to beat Russia, 6-4, in Round 8 Tuesday and move closer toward clinching their titanic dual match at the Kremlin Hall in Moscow.

Akopian dealt Garry Kasparov, the highest rated player ever, yet another loss while Gelfand downed former world champion Alexander Khalifman as the Rest of the World raised their points total to 41.5, three up on the Russians with just two rounds left in the 10-round Scheveningen System event. Games in the other eight boards were drawn.

Round 6 and Round 7 both ended in 5-5 draws.

The Russians are now hard put to duplicate their wins over the Rest of the World in similar dual matches held in London in 1984 and in Belgrade in 1970.

Roy Luarca

12 STRAIGHT WINS

Lady Archers on target of UAAP sweep

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
1:30 p.m.—La Salle vs UP (men's)
3:30 p.m.—UST vs FEU (men's)

By Dennis U. Eroa

THEY played with emotion and possess the burning desire to win, but nobody seems to know about the exploits of the La Salle Lady Archers in the UAAP women's basketball tournament.

While the likes of Mike Cortez Mark Cardona and BJ Manalo have become popular as the bemedalled Green Archers dominate the opposition, only a handful know Jec Severino, the Manalo twins, Debbie Santos, Ginny Velarde and Princess Mariano, who are hardcourt heroes in their own ways.

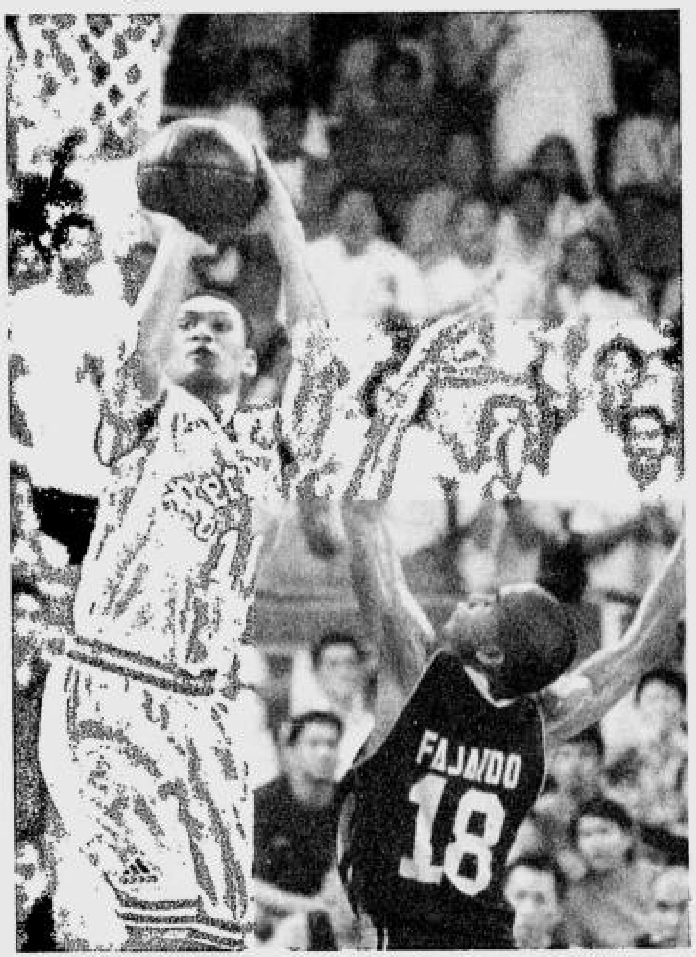
Yesterday, the Lady Archers capped an outstanding elimination campaign by spanking the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses, 74-61, for their 12th straight win. This was the second straight year that La Salle swept the eliminations.

Last Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum, Cortez missed the league's first triple-double performance in recent years by one rebound as La Salle beat Far Eastern University, 84-79, for its 12th straight victory.

"It's about having the winning attitude. The team isn't concerned on the little attention we're getting," said rookie mentor Raymund Castellano, a marketing graduate from La Salle-Bacolod.

Meanwhile, the Green Archers eye their 13th straight win when they battle UP today at the Araneta Coliseum. Gametime is 1:30 p.m. UST tackles FEU in the other senior game at 3:30 p.m.

Stags wait for title opponent



SAN Sebastian's Roy Falcasantos (left) takes a jumper off JRU's Marco Fajardo during their NCAA game yesterday. San Sebastian won, 102-96, in overtime. ROMY HOMILLADA

DEFENDING champion San Sebastian College needed an extra five minutes yesterday to down Jose Rizal University, 102-96, to become the first finalist, but College of St. Benilde wasn't as fortunate as it bowed to Philippine Christian University, 95-93, also in overtime in the NCAA Final Four.

Playmaker Michael Gonzales took over from the exhausted Christian Coronel, while 6-foot-6 center Pep Moore and Rhed Vicente towered as the Stags silenced the Heavy Bombers in the overtime period at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

During regulation, the Stags were lucky to escape the upset ax as the referees failed to give Jose Rizal pointguard Winsjohn Te two free throws as the buzzer sounded with the score tied at 85-85. Te was clearly hacked by two SSC defenders as he sliced the middle and landed badly, but JRU's eruption of anger due to the non-calls fell on deaf ears.

The Stags will meet the winner of Friday's decider between St. Benilde and PCU. The Dolphins recovered from the shock of losing a 20-point bulge to down the Blazers, who enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage.

Dennis U. Eroa

Scores:

PCU 95—Roque 20, Soriano 19, Franco 18, Ilagan 12, Sanz 7, Gulyab 4, Gatdula 4, Senining 3, Acraman 2.

CSB 93—Sagad 26, Salvacion 17, Tolentino 15, Magpayo 14, Capati 10, Coching 6, Reyes V 3, Castro 2, Reyes 0, Orbeta 0, Perlas 0.

Quarters: 26-15, 46-33, 65-52, 79-79 (reg), 95-93.

M. Lhuillier, ML Kwarta prevail; Forex rebounds

CEBU CITY—Host teams M. Lhuillier Jewelers and ML Kwarta Padala rolled to their second straight wins even as the visiting Forex Forwarders from Manila bounced back from their opening day loss in the Cebu Basketball League's (CBL) Crunchtime at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Ramil Ferna topscored with 22 points and Aldrin Ocanada logged 16 points in a third-quarter breakaway as M. Lhuillier thumped Montaña Pawnshop, 109-73, while Kuarta Padala crushed Forward Taguig, 100-85. The Forex Forwarders nipped the North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol, 101-98, in the other game.

SPORTSWATCH

Lipa fund-raising golf tourney Sept. 20

HANDSOME trophies and awards await winners of the Lipa Cathedral fund-raising golf tournament at the Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Lipa City on Sept. 20. Proceeds from the one-day event will go to the repair and refurbishment of the San Sebastian Parish pipe organ, the only one of its kind in Batangas. The P2,000 entry fee includes registration, green fee and plated lunch. "The support of sportsmen in this valuable project is badly needed." said Mons. Alfredo Madlangbayan, parish priest in charge of the project. "So far, we have raised half of the P3.3 million budget and we anticipate that the magnificent sound of the pipe organ can be heard during the Lipa City fiesta in January 2003. Call 043-756-2142 or fax 043 756-5590.

US Open finals replay today, tomorrow

CATCH a replay of the titanic US Open finale featuring Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi in the men's final and Venus Williams and Serena Williams in the women's final today and tomorrow on RPN-9. Solar Entertainment will telecast the Williams sisters' showdown tonight (Thursday, Sept. 12) at 10:30 p.m. and the electric Sampras-Agassi match tomorrow at 10:30 p.m. on RPN-9. The Williams final, the fourth between the sisters in the past five Grand Slam tournaments, was a rematch of last year's title match won by Venus. Meanwhile, the men's final features the legendary Sampras at his best in winning his fifth US Open and record 14th Grand Slam singles title.

Panopio non-master chess champion

SECOND seed Rodolfo Panopio Jr. downed No. 8 Edmundo Gatus in the seventh and final round to rule the September edition of the Metropolitan Chess Club non-master chess tournament held over the weekend at the 3/F of J&F Divino Bldg. In Quezon City. Playing white, Panopio of the Philippine Air Force beat Gatus in 29 moves of a Ruy Lopez game and wound up with a final tally of 6.5 points after seven rounds of play to win his second MCC title. Panopio took home the top purse of P4,000 in this seven-round Swiss MCC event. No. 17 Ferdinand Paet of Marikina, who outplayed No. 12 Basilio Pandan Jr. of the Philippine Army in 34 moves of a Sicilian defense, bagged the runner-up honor with six points and went home richer by P2,000.

Mindanao Games lure 4,000 athletes

WITH the theme: "Sports for Peace," the 2nd Mindanao Friendship Games expects to gather about 4,000 athletes and officials from 50 provinces and highly urbanized and chartered cities from all over Mindanao. Foreign teams are also expected to see action in the multi-sport open event competition in Cagayan de Oro Sity set Oct. 27-31, 2002 as preparation by the organizing Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) shifts to high gear. PSC Commissioner William "Butch" Ramirez, overall project director, said that the BIMP-EAGA, comprising the Island of Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah, Lubuan, Malaysia, Kalimanatan, and Maluko Irian Jaya of Indonesia, has been invited to participate in the event.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Rogelio Antonio notched 10.5 points to bag the National Chess Championship at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Also today in 1992, Angelo Constantino rolled 1313 pinfalls to snare the singles plum in the 2nd FIQ International Youth Championship in Caracas, Venezuela

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SPORTS

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5 7 8 7
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
8 6 1

MEGALOTTO 6/45
9 14 17 34 35 45

PBA FINALS

Pals silence Thunder again for 2-1 lead

GAME TOMORROW *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
7:30 p.m.–Red Bull vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

TALK N Text proved its Game 1 victory was no fluke, carving out an 80-71 victory over title-favorite Batang Red Bull in Game 3 last night to gain a 2-1 lead in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Showing they're for real, the Phone Pals rode on the exploits of Pete Mickeal and Jerald Honeycutt to again debunk the notion that the Thunder are invincible.

"They took us lightly tonight. They're stronger and quicker but still we wore them down," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno, whose Phone Pals moved two games away from wrapping up the best-of-seven titular series.

Aside from avenging a 96-86 Game 2 setback against the Thunder, the Phone Pals also became the first team in the conference to beat Red Bull twice, a bad premonition for a team looking for a second straight title.

Honeycutt came up with his third consecutive double-double performance, turning in 26 points and 13 rebounds on top of four steals and two assists.

Mickeal was also superior as he finished with 21 markers, four of which dealt the killer blows on the Thunder.

Mickeal's short jumper and two freethrows off a foul by Julius Nwosu capped a remarkable night for the Phone Pals, who will face the Thunder anew in Game 4 Friday night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Donbel Belano, Mark Telan and Kenny Evans also shone, combining for 28 points to neutralize Red Bull's backcourt triumvirate of Willie Miller, Jimwell Torion and Junthy Valenzuela.

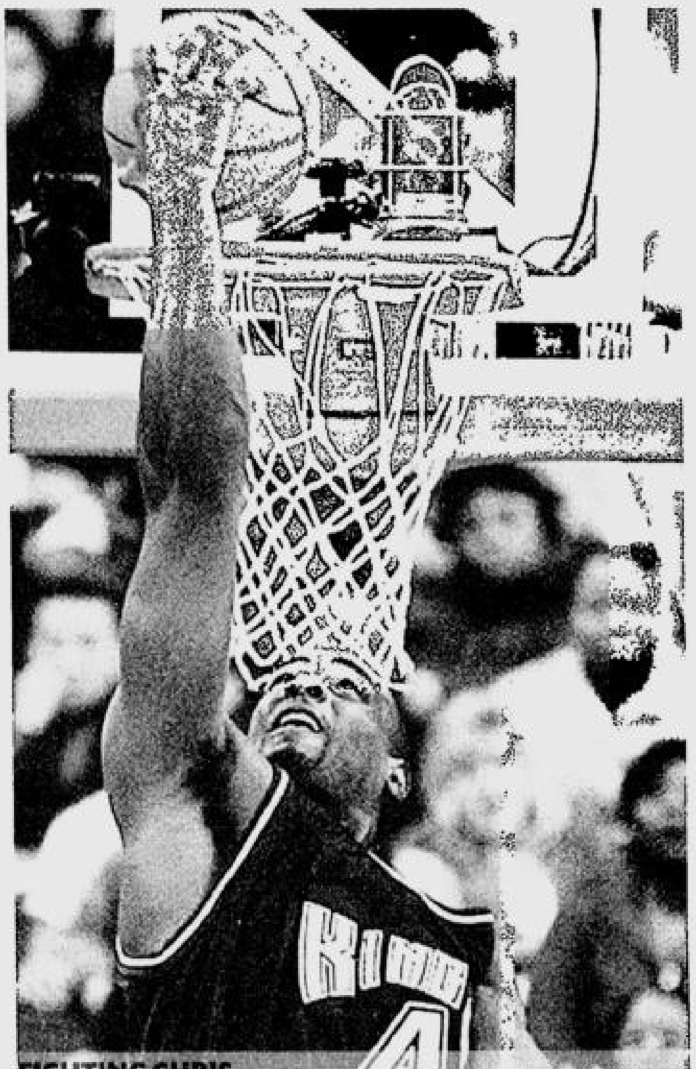
Mickeal and Honeycutt overshadowed their Red Bull counterparts, showing the way for the Phone Pals in the first half.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 80–Honeycutt 26, Mickeal 21, Telan 11, Belano 9, Evans 8, Demapa 3, Pablo 2, Crisano 0, Fran 0, Lago 0.

RED BULL 71–Lang 21, Nwosu 13, Harp 10, Miller 8, Valenzuela 7, Asaytono 5, Torion 5, Tugade 2, Villoria 0, Hizon 0.

Quarters: 25-19, 44-30, 61-50, 80-71.



FIGHTING CHRIS
Sacramento Kings All-Star forward Chris Webber, shown doing a reverse dunk in file photo, yesterday vowed to fight charges that he lied to a federal grand jury. Webber said: "I'll fight to the end and I feel that I'll be vindicated."

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Jordan, Wizards get Russell

WASHINGTON—Bryon Russell is best known for being posterized by Michael Jordan and now he's a teammate of the player that gave him his unwanted place in National Basketball Association history.

The Washington Wizards on Tuesday signed Russell to a two-year contract after failing to work out a sign-and-trade deal with the Utah Jazz.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

Russell averaged 9.2 points and 3.8 rebounds in his nine-year career—all with the Jazz—and was a starter on both Western Conference championship teams in 1997 and 1998.

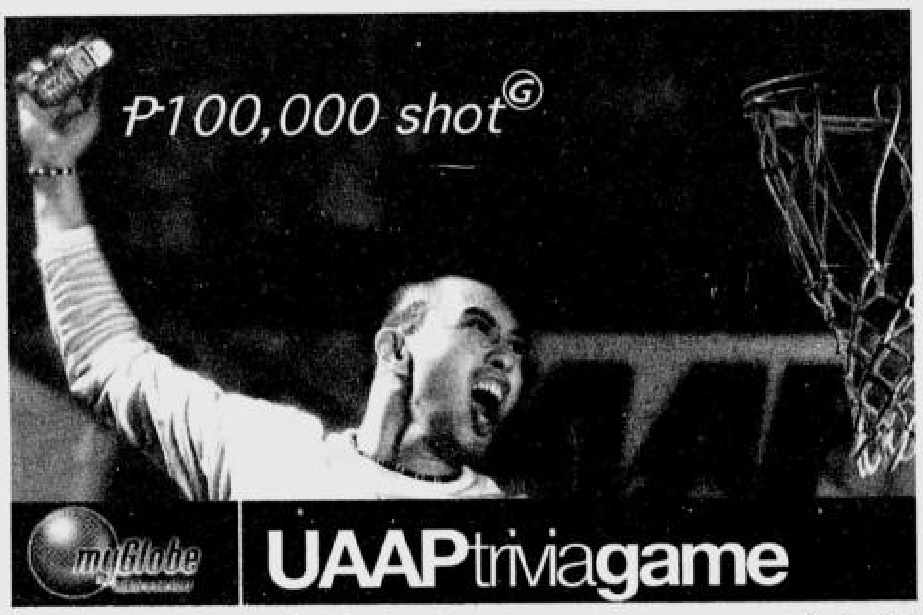
However, those Jazz teams lost twice in six games to Jordan and the Chicago Bulls in the NBA Finals.

Perhaps the most enduring image of the 1998 Finals came in Game Six when Jordan hit the winning jumper over Russell in the final seconds to give the Bulls their sixth NBA title. *AFP*

Surgery for Shaq

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal is scheduled to have surgery Wednesday on his arthritic right big toe.

The 30-year-old O'Neal could be sidelined for up to six weeks, meaning he might not be ready when the three-time defending NBA champions open the season Oct. 29 against San Antonio. *AP*



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Nat'l taekwondo tilt set Sept. 14-15

THE 2002 Milo national taekwondo inter-school championships attracted 1,500 jins who will vie for supremacy on Sept. 14-15 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado said the tourney gives upcoming jins from 500 schools nationwide the opportunity to show effective techniques and style in the country's fastest growing sport.

Competition will be conducted in six divisions, namely senior men and women, junior men and women and grade school boys and girls.

"This particular tournament is part of our grassroots program. It is important for young boys and girls from PTA-affiliated schools in Metro Manila and other cities and provinces to develop and show their skills at an early age," said PTA vice president Hong Sung Chon.

Among the schools which will be represented in the two-day competition are DLSU, UP, Ateneo, FEU, San Beda, Don Bosco Makati and Mandaluyong, Xavier, De La Salle Zobel, Assumption College, Colegio San Agustin, Siena, LSQC, OB Greenhills, La Salle Greenhills and St. Scholastica's College,.

Other participants are School of St. Anthony, Letran, Paco Catholic School, Live and Learn School, St. Mary's School, St. Louis University (Baguio), Aquinas, PMA, Siena Taytay, University of Baguio, UA&P, Integrated School, Poveda, Divine Light Academy, St. Andrew Academy, International British Academy, Miriam College, Centro Escolar University, Lyceum and Corinthian Institute of Cavite.

Martial arts enthusiasts, especially children who wish to learn the sport, are invited to watch the event, which starts at 9 a.m.

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■ Fresnedi urged to lift truck ban /A24

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Little regard for soldiers' lives /A24

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Metro mayors support Fernando on vendors

By Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

METRO MANILA mayors yesterday threw their support behind Metro Manila Development Chair Bayani Fernando in his campaign against illegal vendors.

The mayors also hit Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco for riding on the issue and taking the side of the vendors' issue apparently to gain political leverage.

The MMDA on Tuesday gave the vendors 30 days to vacate the sidewalks and side streets, but the vendors had rejected the move.

Fernando yesterday said in a telephone interview that he would continue with the clearing operations since Syjuco had not confirmed if the vendors accepted the 30-day retrieve.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, spokesperson of the Metro Manila Mayor's League, said Syjuco's meddling only complicates the controversy surrounding Fernando's campaign to rid sidewalks of all obstructions.

"The issue involves the vendors, the mayors, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority," Trinidad told the INQUIRER.

METRO /A24

30 youth offenders bolt jail

By Philip C. Tubeza

THIRTY youth offenders yesterday escaped from a juvenile detention hall near Manila City Hall, police said.

The inmates even beat up three other detainees who did not join the jailbreak at the Manila Youth Reception Center on Arroceros Street in Ermita, Manila, said Supt. Manolo Martinez, Ermita police chief.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development in Manila is running the detention center.

The escapees, aged 16 to 18 years old, were detained for cases ranging from petty crimes to murder.

Martinez said the jailbreak occurred about 2 a.m. yesterday. An 18-year-old facing murder and frustrated murder charges led the escape, he said.

House parent supervisor Melnie Robleado said security officer Nelson Angara said he was roving around the center when some inmates told him that the 30 inmates had escaped from the center's Matapat Dormitory.

But the inmates were already gone when Angara reached the dormitory, he said.

They escaped from the dormitory by sawing off the padlock on its main door and scaling the compound's perimeter wall.

But before they escaped, the juvenile delinquents beat up three inmates who did not want to join them, police said.

They scaled the compound's perimeter wall.

Police said the entire Western Police District has been alerted about the jailbreak and are now hunting down the escapees.

ESTRANGED wife Aiko refuses to talk to reporters after yesterday's hearing.

I will listen to Aiko–Jomari

By Agnes E. Donato

ACTOR Jomari Yllana yesterday vowed to attend every hearing of the annulment case filed against him by his wife, Aiko Melendez.

He wants to hear everything his estranged wife has to say, Yllana told reporters after the pre-trial of the case at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Melendez, who failed to attend the scheduled meeting on last Wednesday last week, attended yesterday's hearing. But she refused to talk to the media and immediately left after the pre-trial.

Saying that he was already done with his emotional struggle, Yllana maintained that the most pressing issue for him now was his annulment case. He said that this is the first time he is facing charges in court.

"I will have to listen to whatever Aiko has to say in court," Yllana said.

Melendez, who is also a Quezon City councilor, is expected to testify and present evidence against her husband when the trial of the hearing begins on October 15.

In the petition for annulment she filed last March, Melendez said that Yllana had extramarital affairs, hurt her physically, refused to "engage in intimate relations" with her and did not give financial support to their son.

She cited Yllana's disloyalty and psychological incapacity as reasons for her filing the petition for the annulment of their marriage.

Yllana and Melendez, who have a three-year-old son, had been married for three years. They separated early last year but they did not admit the estrangement publicly until after Melendez won a seat in the Quezon City council in the May 2001 local elections.

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Vivitar Alien 2 Black with Free Polaroid Film and Maxell Black Battery
Before: P 1,420.00
Now: P 852.00

Samsung Fino 205 Champagne
Before: P 1,850.00
Now: P 1,480.00

Samsung Fino 255
Before: P 2,250.00
Now: P 1,800.00

Vivitar Alien 2 Champagne with Free Polaroid Film and Maxell Black Battery
Before: P 1,420.00
Now: P 852.00

Samsung Spectrum 20 Blue
Before: P 1,950.00
Now: P 1,170.00

Vivitar Alien 1
Before: P 1,340.00
Now: P 804.00

Vivitar Jewel Charm with Free Agfa HDC Film and Maxell Black Battery
Before: P 1,395.00
Now: P 1,116.00

Minolta Memory Maker
Before: P 1,995.00
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Vivitar Wave Plus (BV20)
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Now: P 18,120.00

Vivitar BV 85 VTR Macro with Self-Timer
Before: P 2,020.00
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Vivitar 2685 640 x 480 Digital Camera
Before: P 9,100.00
Now: P 6,370.00

Minolta F35 Big Finder ST with Free Tripod
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Manila judge rules in favor of city dads

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA court on Tuesday allowed the city's barangay league to elect its president according to city council rules.

Judge Reynaldo Ros of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 33 rejected the appeal of the Manila Barangay League for a writ of preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order against the Manila City Council, which passed an ordinance prescribing the manner of the elections.

The judge said he cannot restrain the Sept. 15 elections because the petitioners—the MBL under its president, Councilor Natalio Beltran III—have yet to show they have sufficient right to be protected.

Manila City Ordinance No. 8039 provides that the barangay chairs in Manila's six districts would elect a "district league president."

The DLPs, in turn, chooses among themselves who would be the president of the MBL. The president is entitled to a seat in the Council as a sectoral representative.

The six DPLs could also take turns in the council seat throughout their five-year term.

The system is patterned after the procedure in the election of the national president of the Liga ng mga Barangay.

The petitioners, however, argued that the new city league president, as provided by the LGC, should be chosen by all the barangay chairs.

The court, in a decision dated Aug. 21 but released only on Tuesday, granted the petitioners' motion for reconsideration to reinstate the petition for declaratory relief "in the interest of justice."

Judge Ros said he wants both sides "to present evidence that will serve as basis for the Court to properly adjudicate the substantive issues raised in the petitions."

The Council's majority leader, Marlon Lacson, said the court's decision is "a victory for due process."

Lacson said the unhampered implementation of the ordinance would allow "an effective and efficient manner" of choosing the leader of the barangay league.

Fresnedi urged to lift truck ban

By Christian Esguerra and Leila Salaverria

THE 10,000-strong Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines (CTAP) yesterday urged government officials to suspend and review all truck prohibitions in the country, warning them of dire effects on the country's economy.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina yesterday met with the truck operators and said he would ask Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi to abolish the city ordinance prohibiting trucks from using the Alabang Interchange between 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Reacting to complaints that bans are imposed without prior consultations, Lina said he would issue a memo to all mayors and governors nationwide directing them to hold consultations with truck operators before imposing bans.

Nilo Gajo, CTAP director, warned that banning trucks in major arteries, even during dull hours, would severely affect many industries because of the delay in the delivery of commodities.

The move was Mayor Fresnedi's response to the Philippine National Construction Corporation's supposed failure to deliver on its promise to repair the shaky Alabang viaduct beginning August.

When the PNCC itself banned trucks weighing 20 tons and above from using the viaduct, the trucks were forced to use the interchange located below the elevated structure, thereby congesting traffic in the area.

"While we know Muntinlupa's reason (for banning trucks) is legitimate, truckers are caught in the middle of the city government's conflict with the PNCC," Gajo told the INQUIRER.

On top of the Muntinlupa policy is another ban prohibiting trucks from plying streets in Metro Manila from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 5 to 9 p.m. daily, according to Gajo.

As a result, trucks usually take longer routes or spend at least two days in delivering commodities in and out of Metro Manila, he said.

"We can't go on like this," he said. "The economy is at stake."

In their dialogue with Lina, the truck operators also cited the high toll for trucks and heavy vehicles, the conduct of abusive tow truck operators and policemen, the threat of hijackers and outdated franchise laws and road taxes.

CTAP president Jose Cortez said they are okay with the Metro-wide truck ban, but the one in Muntinlupa is putting a big dent on their trade. He added that the late hours when they are allowed to travel is putting truck drivers and operators at risk because that is when most hijackings take place. 10,000 trucks pass through Muntinlupa everyday, he added.

Lina agreed with Cortez and said that truck operators play a big role in our economy. He asked for one week to urge Fresnedi to lift the ban.

The DILG secretary added he would ensure that illegal vendors are removed from the area under the viaduct, as they aggravate the traffic congestion. He also said more intelligence work would be done to stop hijacking incidents.

Former justice head sues woman over bounced checks

By Agnes E. Donato

FORMER Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III yesterday filed five counts of estafa against a family friend who allegedly issued him five bounced checks amounting to P3.87 million.

Bello accused Ma. Luisa Villanueva-Gonzales, whom he described as "a long-time family friend," of violating Batasang Pambansa Blg. 22 or the law against issuing bouncing checks.

In a complaint he filed with the QC prosecutor's office, Bello related that Villanueva-Gonzales called him up in January and asked his financial assistance, as she and her husband were facing charges because of the debt they incurred from several people.

Because the respondent was "a long-time family friend," Bello agreed to give her a loan of P3.87 million, he said.

He added that Villanueva-Gonzales had promised to pay him within five months.

Bello said that Villanueva-Gonzales even told him "not to worry as the checks will be fully funded on their maturity dates."

But on the due date, all the checks were dishonored by their respective banks due to insufficient funds, Bello claimed.

Not ours, Las Piñas says of 6 tagged in P95M scam

By Christian Esguerra

THE LAS Piñas government yesteday disowned the six land registration and revenue officials tagged in the alleged P95-million tax scam in the city.

Mayor Vergel Aguilar said the accused are not connected with the city government since they work either as local tax examiners or at the Registry of Deeds (ROD).

The mayor said the ROD is directly under the Land Registration Administration (LRA), an agency of the Department of Justice, having a branch in Las Piñas.

The Office of the Ombudsman's Fact Finding and Investigation Bureau (FFIB) had identified the accused as Corazon Chavez, chief of the city's ROD, Delia de la Peña, LRA examiner, and Maribel Barba, Nimfa Mina, Beatriz Meneses, and Ma. Nimfa de Villa, all local tax examiners.

The FFIB found out that the officers had supposedly cut the value of the capital gains tax and documentary stamps for the sale of a 50,000-square-meter property on the Alabang-Zapote Road.

Only P142,000 representing documentary stamps were supposedly paid by spouses Neil and Erma Digman when they bought the property from one Adelaida Dolores Villa for P8.5 million.

Villa had supposedly paid a mere P570,000 in capital gains tax.

The FFIB said both amounts were grossly disproportionate to the 50,000-square-meter property, whose sale should have earned the government up to P95.8 million in taxes.

Robbers held up this Security Bank branch on Sumulong Highway, Masinag, Antipolo, minutes before the President arrived in the area to inspect a smugglers' warehouse.
VAL HANDUMON

Robbers hit Antipolo bank, flee with P10M

By Alcuin Papa

THE SURPRISE visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Antipolo City did not deter seven bank robbers from pulling off a heist in the city yesterday morning.

The heavily armed men took about P10 million from the Security Bank branch on the Sumulong Highway in Barangay Masinag, Antipolo.

According to SPO1 Zaldy Selos of the Antipolo City police, the unidentified men, wearing jackets and toting knapsacks, drove to the bank in an unmarked white Honda, just as the bank employees were reporting for work at around 8:30 a.m.

Armed with .38-caliber and .45-caliber pistols, the robbers declared the holdup and proceeded to open the vault of the bank, taking all the cash inside. They fled on board the Civic with two large bags, speeding toward Marikina City, police said.

Lawmen immediately put up a dragnet and managed to arrest the suspected driver of the getaway vehicle.

Policemen have withheld the name of the suspect pending follow-up operations.

President Arroyo arrived in Antipolo City at around 9 a.m. to inspect a raided warehouse which police said was being used to store smuggled rice.

The warehouse happens to be located near the Security Bank branch on Sumulong Highway.

Girl, 5, held hostage in Caloocan City

By Tina Santos

A MAN said to be high on illegal drugs held hostage a 5-year-old girl inside her house in Caloocan City Tuesday night.

But policemen were able to persuade suspect Jose Arrogante, 28, to let go of the girl after about six hours of negotiations.

According to initial reports, the girl was playing inside her house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan at around 6:45 p.m. when Arrogante, armed with an 8-inch knife, suddenly barged in, grabbed the girl and threatened her with the knife.

As soon as the policemen arrived on the scene, they began to negotiate with Arrogante, also a resident of Bagong Silang.

A little after midnight on Tuesday, the hostage drama ended peacefully when Arrogante freed the girl unharmed, police said.

Metro mayors support...

From page A23

"Politicians obviously riding (on) the issue would only complicate things," he said, referring to Syjuco who has made himself conspicuous in the snowballing protest actions against the MMDA campaign.

"*Wala na iyan* (That's already moot)," Fernando said, referring to the proposed suspension of the clearing operations.

Last Tuesday, Syjuco took to the streets and joined illegal vendors in staging yet another picket at the MMDA compound in Makati City and calling for Fernando's removal from the MMDA. The lawmaker warned that he would call for a congressional inquiry on Fernando's drive. The vendors also vowed to bring their grievances to Malacañang.

Trinidad said mayors, Fernando, and vendors should resolve the issue without the meddling of politicians who merely throw their support on the "popular opinion."

He said that Fernando's 30-day deadline for illegal vendors to leave the streets would give vendors ample time to look for legitimate and equally cheap spaces in markets.

Fernando said that negotiating with the vendors is difficult because they do not keep their promises so nothing happens.

Trinidad said that he and other mayors would organize a series of dialogues between Fernando and the vendors and look for more spaces for legitimate vending.

"We should not leave everything to Fernando," he said. "We, mayors, should also do our part and ensure that our sidewalks would be free from illegal vendors and obstruction."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 12, 2002
23nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13
Gospel: Lk 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "I say to you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who treat you badly. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek; from the one who takes your coat, do not keep back your shirt. Give to the one who asks and if anyone has taken something from you, do not demand it back.

Do to others as you would have others do to you. If you love only those who love you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do favors to those who are good to you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners do the same. If you lend only when you expect to receive, what kind of graciousness is yours? For sinners also lend to sinners, expecting to receive something in return.

But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend when there is nothing to expect in return. Then will your reward be great and you will be sons and daughters of the Most High. For he is kind towards the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back."

Commentary

A clear sign that the reign of God has captivated somebody is one's attitude to one's enemies. For, one is enabled to see beyond the surface. One is enabled to go beyond the basic moral demands and consequent hopes of reward and punishment. One is enabled to go beyond religion. One is enabled "to see" the Most High and live as this divine Benefactor, who freely bestows gifts to all. Indeed, morality is basic to human living. But it does not suffice to let us become as the heavenly Father/Mother.

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Little regard for soldiers' lives

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE STATEMENT of Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, that the military was prepared to suffer losses in going after Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu left a bad taste in the mouth.

It showed Carolina's little regard for the lives of his men.

Oh, yes, General, you can say that when a person enters the military service he knows what he is getting into, that someday he may have to lose his life if need be.

* * *

But must you mention the obvious, General Sir?

Remember, your men in the field have families and friends who would have been made uncomfortable by your statement. These loved ones suffer a thousand deaths whenever they hear of military casualties in the field.

Next time, General, just shut your mouth and do your job!

* * *

"We are prepared to inflict more casualties against the Abu Sayyaf and we're ready to absorb losses," Carolina said apparently in reaction to reports that at least eight soldiers were killed in Patikul, Sulu. The town is the scene of heavy fighting between government troops and bandits holding hostage some members of the religious denomination Jehovah's Witnesses and Indonesian fishermen.

The military is prepared to inflict more casualties on the Abu Sayyaf, period. Carolina should have stopped there to boost the morale of his men.

It is understood that in battle, both sides sustain casualties.

* * *

Carolina reminds me of that Visayan general during martial law who led an Army brigade in Sulu in the 1970s. This general's brigade suffered heavy casualties in the war against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The general eventually became Army chief during the time of President Cory Aquino.

Asked how he felt about the heavy death toll in his brigade, the general replied: "*O, marami pa niyan sa Ilocos* (There are still many of them in Ilocos)!"

His irresponsible statement reached Marcos, a native of Batac, Ilocos Norte. Marcos got mad.

* * *

The implication was that the general couldn't care less about the heavy casualties in the ranks since most of them were Ilocanos. The brigade commander was an Ilonggo, a Visayan from either Negros Occidental or Iloilo.

Of course, that general made the statement in jest, because he was very much loved by his subordinates. It was one of his Visayan jokes.

The irresponsible statement cost the general, one of the best MNLF fighters during his time, his command.

* * *

You've probably noticed that when an officer who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) is killed in battle, a lot of fuss is made over his death. The reports don't fail to mention his source of commission, the PMA.

But when an officer who is a non-PMAer is killed in the field, his death is just mentioned in passing, if ever.

Why discriminate between a PMA graduate and a non-PMAer when both of them are officers?

* * *

If our military wants a highly dedicated, highly efficient officers corps, it should not distinguish between PMAers and non-PMAers, especially when in the field.

Reserve officers, those who entered the service through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), and integrees, those who entered the service through either the ROTC or other means aside from the PMA, compose the bulk of the officers corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

To discriminate against these equally fine officers would result in a less efficient leadership within the AFP since they far outnumber the PMA graduates.

* * *

I have been harsh with Rear Adm. Rodolfo R. Rabago, former commander of the Western Command based in Palawan, for his alleged mishandling of the raid by the Abu Sayyaf on the Dos Palmas resort off Puerto Princesa.

Let's hear what he says about the incident:

"Dear Mister Tulfo:

"It has been over a year since the Dos Palmas Beach resort kidnapping. Fortunately, it was finally resolved with the rescue of Gracia Burnham a few months ago. I am not writing to argue with you, Mister Tulfo.

"Frankly, Mister Tulfo, the incident was unexpected, but it was actually anticipated (If it was anticipated, how come the military in Palawan did not make a counter-attack?-RT) I did what a good commander could have done and the records will attest to that. The investigating body sent to Palawan by the Chief of Staff AFP could not find any fault or any serious lapse and negligence on our part (Perhaps the investigators were blind.–RT). They came to the conclusion that it was the result of a serious confluence of wrongful events. But in all humility, I accepted the responsibility for everything without pointing an accusing finger at anyone. (Who would you have pointed an accusing finger at?–RT)

"I will be retiring on Sept. 4 after 38 years 5 months and 4 days of military service with my service reputation untainted, my dignity intact and still an officer and a gentleman.

"*Hindi po ako tanga.* I still sleep peacefully at night. I am leaving the military with a very heavy heart. If I can (sic) live my life again I will still choose the same career I have so much loved. Perhaps now you can finally leave my family and me in peace."

I will. But in your heart of hearts, you think you couldn't have done better, Admiral?

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Viva donates CD of Christmas songs to Hands On Foundation

By Leah Salterio

"GIVE Love On Christmas Day."

There couldn't have been any better title for the CD compilation of Christmas carols recorded by top artists and donated by Viva Entertainment to Hands On Foundation, a non-profit organization engaged in volunteer work for community projects.

The CD comes as a package with the Hands-On Christmas card for corporate or personal give-aways during the holiday season.

The 13-track musical compilation contains recordings of Sharon Cuneta ("Silent Night"), Jaya ("A Perfect Christmas"), Janno Gibbs ("Pasko na Sinta Ko") and Rico J. Puno ("Miss Kita Kung Christmas").

Channels Band sings the title track, "Give Love on Christmas Day."

Regine Velasquez records "O Holy Night," while composer Willy Cruz contributes two instrumental cuts—"Adeste Fidelis" and "Joy to the World."

Vina Morales sings a Vehnee Saturno original, "Dalangin sa Pasko."

Donna Cruz does a duet with Jason Everly in "Silver Bells" and goes solo in the track, "My Grown Up Christmas List."

The Tiples de Sto. Domingo Choir sings "Little Drummer Boy" and the UP Singing Ambassadors renders "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

Butch Montejo croons "Little Christmas Tree."

Royalties

Viva is donating 3,000 CDs to Hands On Foundation. All the artists have agreed to waive their royalties.

Viva publicist Baby Gil said that in case Hands On needs more CDs, "We are giving it to them at cost."

"For corporations which will order 1,000 copies, we will even put the logo of their company to make the give-away more personalized," said Hands On assistant treasurer Nicole Marie O. Fandiño.

"We will also sell the CD to individuals who are interested," Nicole added.

Hands On is a non-profit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates a network of volunteers for diverse community projects within Metro Manila.

The founding members who also compose the board of trustees are lawyer Gianna R. Montinola (chair and president), Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (vice president), Ma. Cristina Duarte-Olbes (secretary), Jose Rene C. Gayo (treasurer), Fandiño (assistant treasurer) and Jose L. Cuisia Jr., lawyer Gizela M. Gonzalez-Montinola, Federico R. Lopez, Wynn Wynn Nyunt Ong and Cesar Purisima (trustees). Executive director is Wendy Beltran.

"Our goal is to foster spirit of volunteerism in the Philippines," says Gianna. "We also want to address the needs of people who are busy but willing to do community work. Every month, there are several projects to choose from and all they need is to devote two hours of their time for volunteer work."

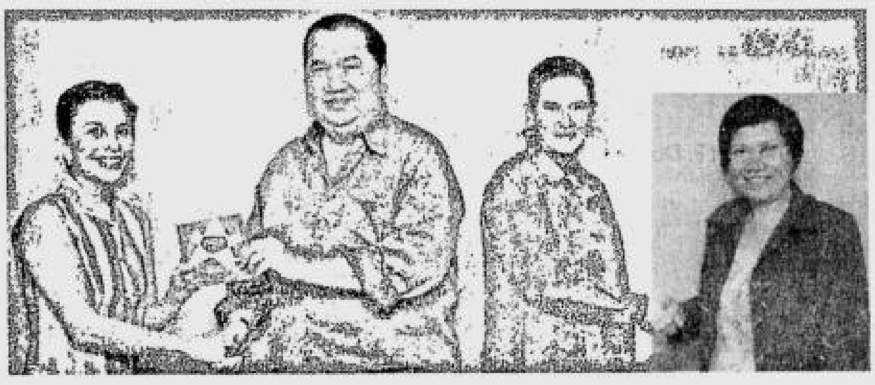
Nicole added, "We give flexible volunteer opportunities. We also tie-up with several NGOs and organize activities that volunteers can do."

To date, Hands On volunteers have engaged in tree planting, livelihood training for single moms, cleanup of Manila Zoo and visits to the home for the aged and day-care centers.

First anniversary

Hands On, which is celebrating its first anniversary next month, is an affiliate of City Cares USA, a foundation based in Atlanta, Georgia which has successfully engaged in volunteer service.

Hands On Manila volunteer Chona Vera-Perez Ampil, a classmate of Gianna at Assumption College, arranged the meeting of the foundation's board members with Viva's big boss Vic del Rosario.



MUSIC FOR A CAUSE. Viva Entertainment chair Vic del Rosario (center) and president Tess Cruz (standing, left) sign the CD donation contract with Hands On Manila president Gianna Montinola (seated, left), vice president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (standing, right) and treasurer Nicole Marie Fandiño.

CD DONATION. Handshakes seal the commitment of Viva Entertainment to Hands On Foundation—Montinola with Del Rosario and Fandiño with Cruz.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

"We are so thankful that Viva said yes to the project right away," Sandy Prieto said.

Hands On is grateful to corporations which have extended their help in making the fund-raising project possible.

Aside from Viva, advertising agency Dentsu Philippines (with Nonna Naniagas as president and Bonnie S. Melocoton as creative director), designed the Christmas card.

Sandy said Hands On Manila has 800 volunteers to date, although the active ones number to about 600.

"The only requirement is for them to join the monthly orientation seminar to become a certified volunteer," Gianna said.

This month, the scheduled orientation for new volunteers is on Sept. 27, 6 to 7 p.m. at the 2/F of Powerbooks along Pasay Road in Makati City.

Hands On has affiliations with Kabalikat ng Pamilyang Pilipino Foundation, Museo Pambata, The Children's Library (Galleria branch), Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Kythe, Inc., Tuloy sa Don Bosco, Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, In-Touch Community Services, My Zoo, Metropolitan Museum of Manila and Habitat for Humanity (Las Piñas chapter).

The foundation holds office at Unit 10 Lower Penthouse Medical Plaza Bldg., Amorsolo corner De la Rosa st., Legaspi Village, Makati City. For orders or information, call 843-5231, fax to 843-7044 or e-mail homla@info.com.ph or handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph

Crime as entertainment

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JUST like the tabloid newspapers, our television newscasts are now treating crime stories as entertainment. TV people will blithely deny this, of course, but the evidence is clear for all to see on the TV screen.

This is reprehensible because TV newscasts, due to their limited running time, are supposed to deal mainly with the most significant news stories of the days. But so much time is being taken up by crime stories that not much is left for the really significant events.

So, why do they do it? Because they want to rate, and the "entertainment value" of crime stories is one way to keep viewers glued to a "tabloid" newscast.

Of course, erring TV channels try to excuse their preference for crime stories by saying that they run them to warn viewers about criminals' modus operandi, and to expose brazen wrongdoers so other people will be dissuaded from living a life of crime.

While this may apply to a number of crime stories, most items about criminals and crimes end up on the TV news because they are shocking, action-filled, bloody, sex-oriented, uniquely perverse or emotional. That's why we call them entertainment, not factual reportage.

In fact, many crime stories on the TV news play like mini-soap operas: A man rapes his daughter, but his wife sides with him and is jealous of her own offspring. Two best buddies fight over a single girl. A trusted relative turns out to be an embezzler.

These and other stories are selected for airing not because they're of import to the nation as a whole, but because they are full of drama and emotion. As a result, they engage the viewer's attention and empathy.

But that's precisely the problem. Newscasts are supposed to report, inform and provide viewers enough facts for them to intelligently assess the significance of a news event. That certainly doesn't happen when crime stories are played for all the subjective, unenlightened and even perverse interest they have to offer.

That's why viewers should complain about our crime-oriented newscasts these days. They are shortchanging the viewing public by focusing on entertainment objectives that are the proper province of TV soaps and movies.

If viewers want crime, action and violence, they should watch action-drama movies, not TV newscasts! And our TV news and public affairs people should know better than to turn their newscasts into crime thrillers and action extravaganzas.

What makes the situation worse is some newscasters' ack-ack, super-macho delivery, which makes the crime stories even more strident and over-the-top in their impact on viewers.

This no-holds-barred reporting style started on the radio, where reporters covering a small fire make such a big, loud, dramatic thing of the insignificant event that it sounds like World War Three has just erupted!

The excuse on the radio for this excessive style is that the reporters are merely trying to make up for the medium's lack of visuals, to adequately communicate the "flavor" and "texture" of the event to listeners.

On TV, however, there's no such limitation—so, what's the erring TV newscasters' excuse?

Pedero conducts seminar

DO YOU feel like life is passing you by? Stuck in a rut, feeling hopeless? Do you find your dreams out of reach?

Life-enhance coach Dero Pedero conducts "Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True," a powerful four-and-a-half-hour success seminar that employs computer and video technology to present life enhancing secrets, principles and techniques vital in helping you achieve your fondest and wildest dreams.

Pedero, a well-known music composer, book author and lifestyle columnist experienced what he calls "black hole moments" in his life that led him to seek mentors to help him get answers to his life questions.

He attended the sellout seminars of New Millennium guru Iyanla Vanzant, media magnate Steve Scott, entrepreneurial expert Barbara J. Winter and promotions genius Carol Sapin Gold in New York; and Arista Records president Clive Davis, top Hollywood agent Jay Bernstein, and creativity specialist Sark, in Los Angeles.

In the seminar, discover the 12 Failure Anchors that keep you from realizing your fondest dreams, the inner and outer critics that keep you from being successful, and the self-depreciating things you do.

You'll learn dynamic techniques on how to have instant self-confidence and instill self-discipline, how to combat procrastination, how to be on purpose, and how to define your vision or dream.

The seminar is scheduled Saturday, Sept. 14, 4 to 8:30 p.m. at the Buendia Tower, 501 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue between Bautista and LRT Taft.

For more information e-mail DesoSeminar@yahoo.com and call or text 0920-4053233.

Willie's wish for his new TV show

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

WILLIE Revillame was last seen in the boob tube more than a year ago. His hosting stint on "MTB" caught the ire of viewers because of his irreverent style.

I was very vocal about my disdain for his braggadoccio. Looking back, I guess he was just overdoing what he does best as a comedian. In wanting so much to liven up the noontime show, he was probably unaware of boundaries in viewers' sensitivities.

The good thing about Willie is that he takes criticism well and bears no grudges toward his detractors. Time alone and away from the limelight has made him mellow. When you get to talk to Willie, you can sense his sincerity. He's a changed man.

His "MTB" brand of comedy may have turned his life into a tragedy for some time but he learned what he had to learn.

Now he's back in a public service program, "Willingly Yours," Saturdays, 5:30 to 6 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

Willie is taking things a little more seriously, with a sprinkling of smiles and laughter along the way to viewer's hearts and dreams.

What did your absence from the TV scene teach you? It must have been quite a humbling experience? One day you're up there and before you realize it, you're jobless.

It made me closer to God. I got no one to hold on to but Him. And, of course, I found out who my true friends are. When you're up, everyone is around you, but when you're down only those who really love you remain.

Is that you talking?(laughter)

Believe it or not. Whether you like it or not. (more laughter)

Kidding aside, is this a "new and improved" Willie that viewers see?

I have always been true to myself. It's just too bad that sometimes people misinterpret my jokes and lines. I don't mean to offend. I can't help it. I'm basically a guy who loves to make people laugh.

It's harder to make people laugh than make people cry?

Yup! In drama, once the background music is played, viewers cry. But in comedy, you got to have the right timing.

And what makes you cry?

I never had a solid family. I've been alone almost all my life. The irony is I can make people laugh but not myself.

Why do you think people have this impression that you're cocky and vulgar?

It's all a matter of perception. Even if I don't mean it as a green joke but some people have malicious minds then it comes across as dirty.

I'm not pretending naman to be goody-goody. I guess my being brutally frank has gotten me into trouble. But I'd rather tell the truth than be plastic. Is it a crime to be honest?

How different is your job now in "Willingly Yours" compared to your hosting chores in "MTB?"

In "MTB," we were a team. Now, one-man army ako! I'm more involved in "Willingly Yours." I have a say on the production side. Nakakatuwa because we're only on our sixth episode, but nasa Top 20 na kami.

The ratings are very inspiring. The show is sort of an off-shoot of my "Pera o Bayong" days because I was the one who always gave the contestants an easy time to bring home the jackpot. I believe kasi that when you give, you might as well give it all.

I heard that you are going to have your own talk show soon?

There's no timeslot yet but it will be a talk show with gags. I'll play drums in the opening and there will be funny moments in between. My first guest is Princess (Punzalan).

Any woman who has replaced Princess in your heart?

I'm loveless now. By choice. The only girl in my life now is my 20-year-old daughter Meryll (Soriano)

How's your relatiosnhip with Meryll?

We get to bond every so often. We're like barkada.

How can you differentiate "Willingly Yours" from GMA-7's "Wish Ko Lang"

I don't know why some people accuse us of being a copycat. Dapat nga more stations will come up with shows with similar format because so many people out there need our help. It gives me a different kind of fulfillment to reach out to others and make their dreams come true.

If you were to be a letter-sender to your show, what is it that you will wish for?

I wish that the show will last a long, long time. For my personal life, I wish to stay away from temptation. I'd like to believe that I've straightened my path after all I've been through.

WILLIE'S/A27

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

REVELATION R18 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:45	BOURNE IDENTITY P13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00	SIMONE P13 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50
REIGN OF FIRE P13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:55,10:00	SIGNS P13 11:40,2:10,4:40, 7:10,9:40	DIVINE SECRET OF YA-YA SISTERHOOD P-13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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5:30, 7:40, 10:00
P13

CINEMA 2
BOURNE IDENTITY
12:40, 3:20,
5:55, 8:40
P13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 7 & 14, 2002	YO SEXBOMB	9:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 20 & 21 2002	70's 2DAY	9:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS CALL 721-6726 OR

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

NOW SHOWING

HAPPY TIMES

From the award-winning
director of Raise the Red Lantern
MR. ZHANG YIMOU

"Simultaneously poignant, engagingly funny and bittersweet, it mixes its elements in a way that is completely its own."
— Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOKIA INQUIRER AYALA CINEMAS

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4 (GOLD)(DTS)	DIVINE SECRETS
5 (GOLD)(DOLBY)	REVELATION
6 (GOLD)(SDDS)	SIMONE
7 (GOLD)(DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
8	LAMAN
9	AUSTIN POWER-3
10	JOLOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) t[illegible] TEL. 551 63 87

1	LAMAN
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	HIGH RISK

st★rmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIMONE
3	LAMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	REIGN OF FIRE
5	BAKAT

METROPOLIS st★r
tel 850.4285

1	JOLOGS
2	BAKAT
3	LAMAN
4	REIGN OF FIRE
5	SIMONE
6	DIVINE MERCY ...
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
REIGN OF FIRE
SEPTEMBER 11,12 - TIME 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 PM. SEPT. 4:30 PM.
PREMIER OF ROAD TO PERDITION
TIME 7:15 PM.
SEPTEMBER 14, 15 - REIGN OF FIRE
TIME 4:30 6:40 8:50 PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	JOLOGS
2	TRIPLE X

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	LAMAN
3	BAKAT
4	HIGH RISK

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
4	LAMAN
5	REVELATION
6	JOLOGS
7 (DTS)	DIVINE SECRET...
8 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
9 (DOLBY)	SIMONE

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	LAMAN
2	JOLOGS
3	BAKAT
4 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6 (DOLBY)	DIVINE SECRET...
7 (DTS)	HIGH RISK
8	TRIPLE X
9	GAMITAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4	LAMAN
5 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
6 (DTS)	DIVINE SECRET ...
7 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
8	HIGH RISK

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIMONE
3 (DTS)	DIVINE SECRET...
4	LAMAN
5 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LAMAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LAMAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
Lords	LAMAN
Jennet	RESERVE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	LAMAN
3	SIMONE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DIVINE SECRET . .
3	RESERVE
4	LAMAN
5	RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	GAMITAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	JOLOGS
2	LAMAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
5 (DTS)	DIVINE SECRET ...
6	SIMONE
7	SIGNS

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	LAMAN
2	REIGN OF FIRE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	LAMAN
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
3 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
4	LAMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	LAMAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	LAMAN
2	SIGNS
3 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	SIGNS
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	LAMAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	BAKAT
3	
4	

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 (DTS)	HIGH RISK
4	JOLOGS
5	BAKAT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JREIGN OF FIRE
2	LAMAN
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	LAMAN
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	SIGNS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	INFAITHFUL
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	BOURNE IDENTITY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

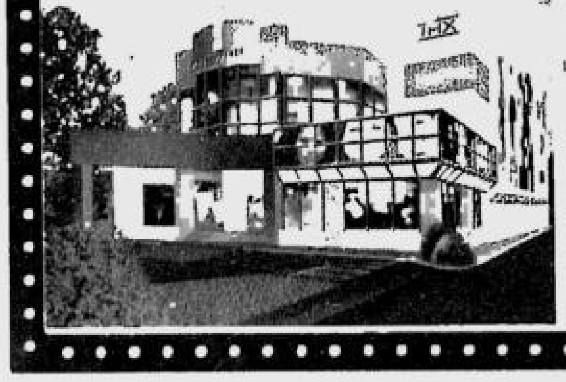
1	SIGNS
2	AUSTIN POWER-3
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	BAKAT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
4	DERAILED

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice .

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 9:45PM

REIGN OF FIRE

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	SIMONE
2	HIGH RISK
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	DIVINE SECRETS...
5	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6	JOLOGS
7	LAMAN
8	SIGNS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	REVELATION
2	SIMONE
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	LAMAN
5	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6	JOLOGS
7	SIGNS
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	DIVINE SECRETS...
10	HIGH RISK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SIMONE
2	DIVINE SECRETS
3	HIGH RISK
4	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
5	JOLOGS
6	LAMAN
7	REIGN OF FIRE
8	REVELATION
9	AUSTIN POWERS
10	SIGNS
11	TRIPLE X
12	BAKAT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIMONE
3	DIVINE SECRETS...
4	REIGN OF FIRE
5	SIGNS
6	REIGN OF FIRE
7	REVELATION
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	TRIPLE X
11	HIGH RISK
12	LAMAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6328401

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DIVINE SECRETS...
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
5	SIMONE
6	REVELATION
7	TRIPLE X
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	SIGNS
11	LAMAN
12	HIGH RISK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295462

1	REVELATION
2	SIGNS
3	LAMAN
4	JOLOGS
5	DIVINE SECRETS...
6	SIMONE
7	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
8	REIGN OF FIRE

SM SOUTHMALL
8086888

1	DIVINE SECRETS...
2	REVELATION
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	SIMONE
5	HIGH RISK
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	JOLOGS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9	SIGNS
10	LAMAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	SWEETEST THING
2	SIGNS
3	DERAILED
4	ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
5	LAMAN
6	BAKAT
7	JOLOGS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	CLOSED
3	INSOMNIA
4	LAMAN
5	SIGNS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	SEX & ZEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	INSOMNIA
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	JOLOGS
5	DERAILED
6	LAMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	LAMAN
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	JOLOGS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	LAMAN
3	JOLOGS
4	SIMONE

SM CITY DAVAO
2978998

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SEX & ZEN
4	LAMAN
5	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	SIGNS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	REIGN OF FIRE 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	REIGN OF FIRE
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	DIVINE SECRETS...
4	SIMONE
5	LAMAN
6	BOURNE IDENTITY
7	SIGNS
8	KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9	KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL (AM)/AUSTIN POWERS 3(PM)
10	REVELATION

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	JOLOGS
4	REVELATION
5	LAMAN
6	SIMONE
7	DIVINE SECRETS...

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	DIVINE SECRETS...
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	AUSTIN POWERS 3
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	SIMONE
6	LAMAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DIVINE SECRETS...
3	JOLOGS
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	SIGNS
6	SIMONE
7	LAMAN
8	REVELATION

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	LAMAN
4	DIVINE SECRETS...
5	JOLOGS
6	SIMONE

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	SIGNS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	JOLOGS
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	GAMITAN
6	BIGLANG LIKO

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIGNS
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	INSOMIA
5	LAMAN
6	SEX & ZEN

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961 5318 / 5270

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	DERAILED
4	LAMAN
5	INSOMIA
6	REIGN OF FIRE

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Willie's wish . . .

From page A25

Personal

HAPPY birthday to a woman I cannot worship enough . . . my Ta Lets! Destiny made us family. Passion for writing made us friends.

Birthday cheers to my ever-dependable buddy Patrick Reyes.

For feedback, e-mail friends_ at_dsquare @yahoo.com

BARBIE'S Cradle

Barbie's Cradle at Suburbia

BARBIE'S Cradle hugs the limelight every Thursday in Suburbia Malate. The band renders chart-topping hits like "Tabing Ilog," "Langit na Naman," "Belinda Bye Bye" and "Money for Food."

As a special treat to fans, Suburbia Malate will waive the minimum consummable charge of all college students.

Other bands in Suburbia's lineup this month are Side A on Monays, Synch-O on Tuesdays, 7th Soul with Freestyle on Sept. 18 and South Border on Sept. 25, Escape and Mulatto on Fridays, and Elements with Freeverse on Saturdays. For reservations, call 450-1685.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ITLOG / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	REIGN OF FIRE
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING / LABRADOR
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	BAD COMPANY / 13TH DAY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LAMAN
B	REIGN OF FIRE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YAYA SISTERHOOD
CINEMA-2	REIGN OF FIRE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LAMAN
CINEMA-2	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	BAKAT
CINEMA-7	DERAILED
CINEMA-8	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIVINE SECRETS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	SIMONE
CINEMA-14	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-15	SIGNS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

OPENS SEPTEMBER 25 AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS
SPY KIDS 2
THE ISLAND OF LOST DREAMS
SKYFILMS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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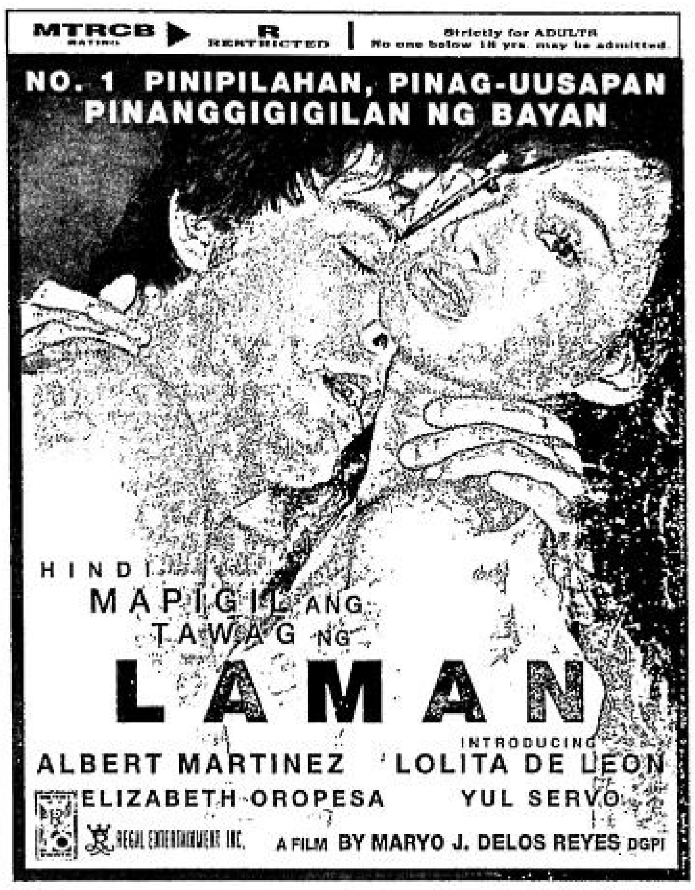
One family's struggle for survival, for justice, for freedom.
"A powerful account of the universal search for identity and the meaning of 'home.'"
-- Loren King, CHICAGO TRIBUNE
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

MTRCB RATING PG-13 OPENS SEPTEMBER 18
CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF MYSTERY AND MADNESS, A MAN IS ABOUT TO DO THE UNTHINKABLE...
ralph fiennes
miranda richardson
gabriel byrne
the only thing worse than losing your Mind, is finding it again.
Spider
The terror never stops until your mind goes to the extremes!
a david cronenberg film



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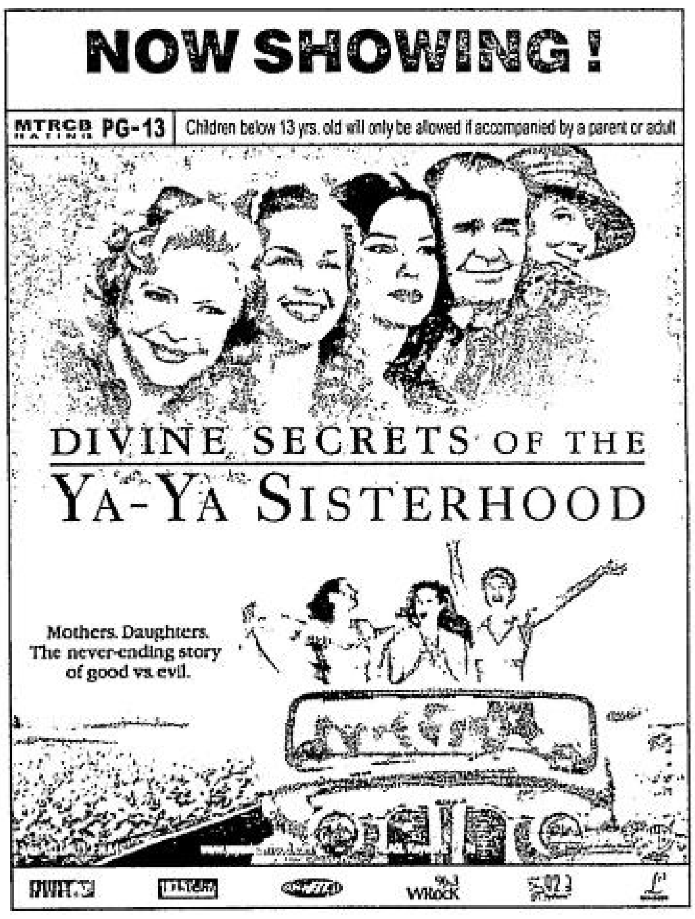

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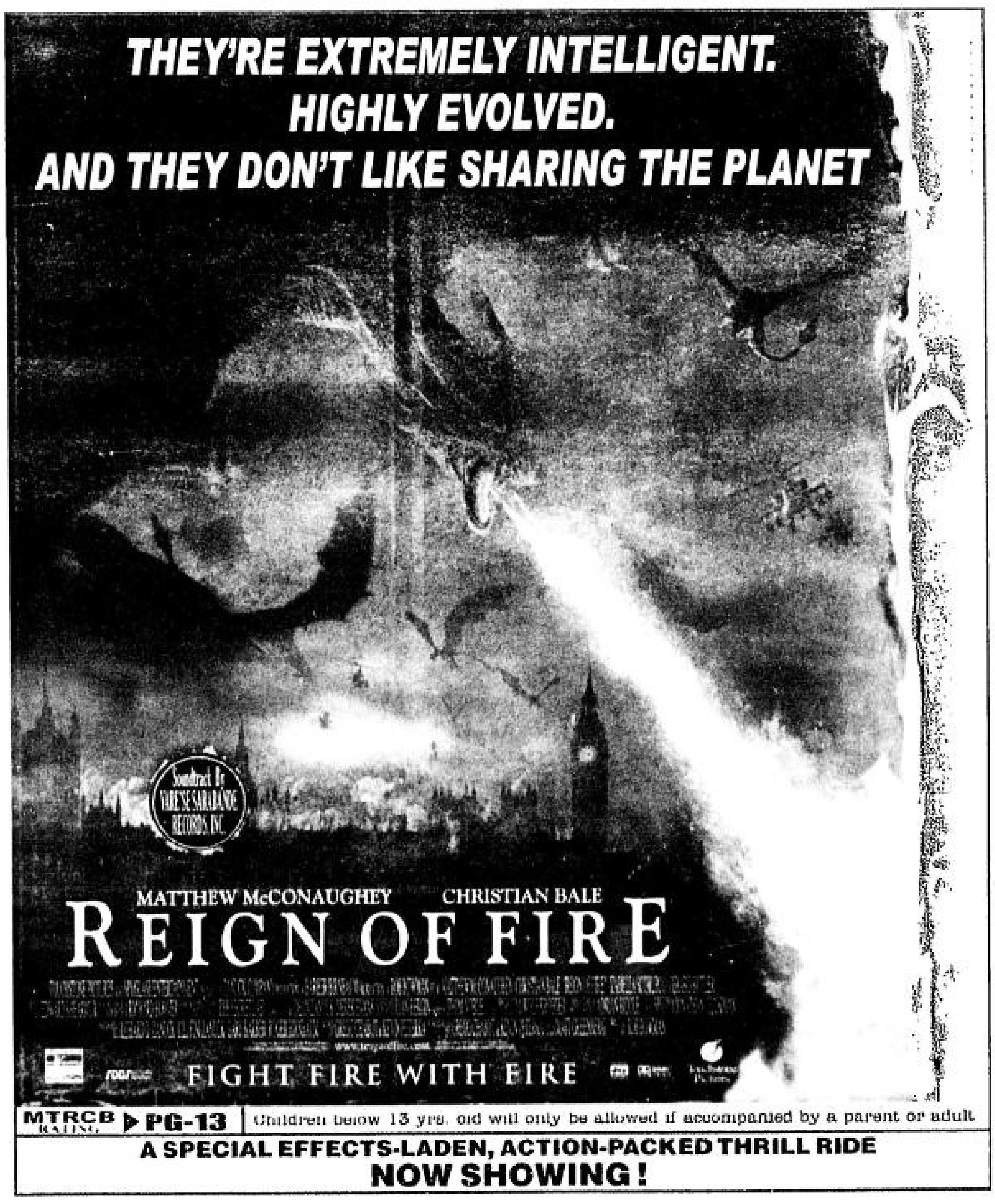

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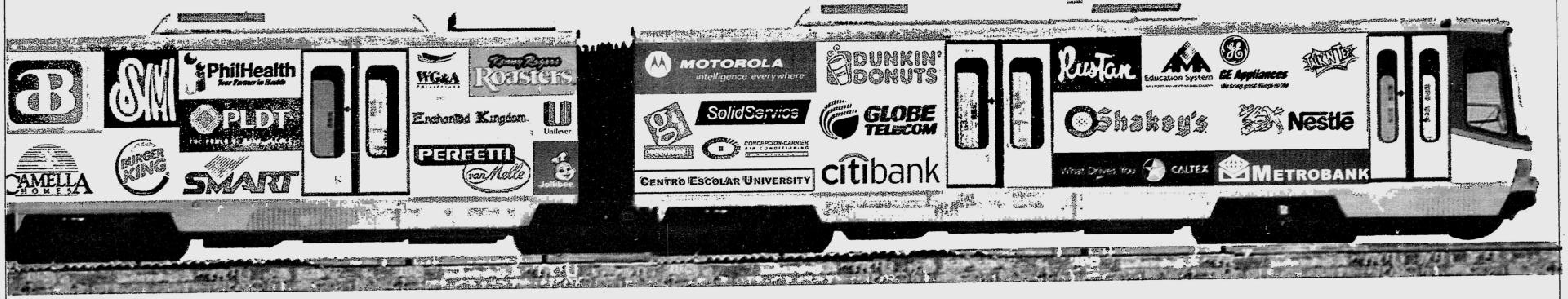
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RP to sign $2-B currency swap deals

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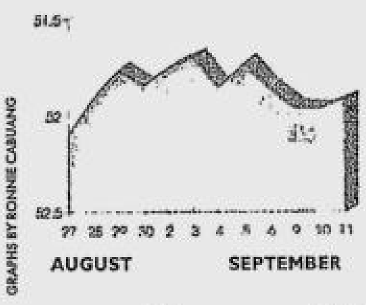
PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.91 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 11, 2002

¥119.74 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 11, 2002

GOLD: $316.60/317.10
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 11, 2002

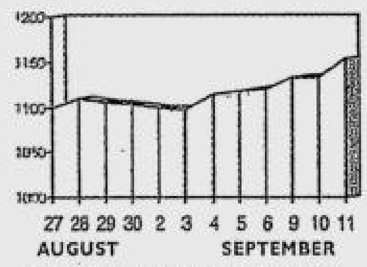
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up

STOCKS advanced for the sixth straight session yesterday as bargain-hunting persisted and investors shook off worries related to the Sept. 11 anniversary and a possible US strike on Iraq.

Top phone firm PLDT and BPI led the market higher, with most buying coming from local institutional players, traders said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Market players said there was momentum for the market to extend its current rally, especially if Sept. 11 were to pass off peacefully, but they said turnover should improve before the market could break out convincingly from consolidation.

STOCKS/ B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT will sign $2 billion worth of bilateral currency swap agreements with South Korea and China as part of efforts to keep the peso stable.

The deals should help boost the peso as these provide the country with a stand-by dollar support in the form of a soft loan during extreme cases of exchange rate volatility.

The two separate deals would be the second and third bilateral arrangements to be signed by the government. The country's first currency swap agreement worth $3 billion was forged with Japan in July 2001.

While bilateral in nature, these agreements were seen more favorable to the Philippines whose dollar reserves of $16 billion were measly compared with Japan's reserves of $500 billion, China's $120 billion, and South Korea's $90 billion.

The peso and many regional currencies have been volatile anew following the increasing tension between the United States and Iraq.

Yesterday, the peso closed at 51.91 to $1 after opening weak at 52.08 from 51.96 last Monday. Transactions were modest at $72.5 million from $115 million the other day as investors were already reluctant to exchange pesos into dollars beyond 52.

Treasury officials believed the peso would remain under pressure for the rest of the year as the tension in the Middle East escalates and countries worldwide scramble for dollars to import oil in anticipation of a supply shortage.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the two currency deals worth $1 billion each were ready for signature. "I had briefly discussed the issue with China's finance minister and I think we have no more problems. It's practically done."

He said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura would sign the two bilateral agreements that could be converted into a soft loan anytime.

Although the Philippines could borrow a combined $5 billion from the three countries (and vice versa) on paper, a provision of the Chang Mai initiative allows countries in a bilateral financial arrangement to tap only 10 percent of the size of the package, and in this case, only $500 million.

Only economies under a loan program with the International Monetary Fund can avail themselves of the full amount.

"We can only get 10 percent but if we add it all up, it will also amount to a significant number," Camacho said.

The separate bilateral swap deals will be similar to an agreement sealed with Japan where any borrowing from the swap will be paid a rate based on the London interbank offered rate plus a small spread.

Camacho said the bilateral arrangements should eventually pave the way for the creation of an Asian Monetary Fund in the future.

PLDT says no plan to oust Pangilinan

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said yesterday that there was no plan to dismiss company president Manuel Pangilinan, who had opposed a deal by the controlling shareholder to divest its stake.

The INQUIRER said on Wednesday that parent company First Pacific Co. Ltd. was set to fire Pangilinan as PLDT president and as chair of its local flagship firm Metro Pacific Corp. to quash his opposition to First Pacific's planned sale of PLDT to the Gokongwei group.

"Only the PLDT board can initiate actions to remove Mr. Pangilinan from his position as president and CEO, and as far as I know, there is no move nor has there been any move in that direction," Butch Jimenez, PLDT vice president for media, said in a statement.

First Pacific, which holds a 24.4-percent stake in PLDT and an 80-percent interest in Metro Pacific, signed an agreement in June with the Manila-based Gokongwei group to set up a joint-venture firm that would take over the two companies.

The PLDT management is opposing the sale, arguing it is not in the best interest of shareholders since the Gokongweis control competing telecom firm Digital Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel). The Gokongwei group, through conglomerate J.G. Summit Holdings, also has interests in property, airlines, food, banking, and petrochemicals. *Reuters*

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Toys for the big voice

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WORD is out that this cute administration will soon ban the importation of used vehicles. Sure, and *Pareng* Osama would only use nothing but PX goods.

Under the plan, supposedly, Gloriaetta herself is going to issue an executive order. It simply declares the importation illegal. You know—just like that!

Such a news leak can only come from car companies. For the past 25 years of the tax-free program in vehicle manufacturing, car companies could always toy with the media.

That's why, when it came to important government policies and decisions which affected them, they always had a big collective voice in media. What's that—toys for the big voice?

* * *

TODAY, both car and truck companies are lobbying for a complete ban. In fact, they already found sympathetic ears in those of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

Supposedly, a Cabinet group headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo studied the lobby, este, the proposed ban, and it already came up with the draft order.

Malacañang insiders told me the order did not exist. A Cabinet member even said the government position on used vehicles remained. And that is, it is illegal.

The news leaks try to tell us, in effect, the executive order bans something which is already illegal. I don't know how stupid it can make this cute administration look.

* * *

SOME months ago, car companies nagged this cute administration on the influx of righthand drive, used vehicles from Japan, which came in through the Subic freeport.

Those were mostly vans and SUVs. Media leaks showed that the used SUVs and vans from Subic were supposedly killing the local vehicle industry, if any.

The government decided to stop the importation. It was illegal, in the first place. It nevertheless allowed the 50 or so fly-by-night importers in Subic to sell their inventory.

Such a policy remains up to today, according to my contacts in the Cabinet, and they think that the car companies were just throwing another of their tantrums again.

Car and truck companies, you see, are trying hard to show this cute administration that they are hard up. It's the only way they can escape the Afta.

* * *

THAT'S the Asean Free Trade Agreement, which cuts taxes and duties on vehicles imported within the region by this January from 30 percent to 5 percent.

That's just about the same taxes and duties which car companies pay for their so-called SKDs, or the semi-knocked down units.

Actually, SKDs are complete cars which are put into boxes to be put together elsewhere. Just add the tires and the batteries!

Obviously, anyway, car companies hate the Afta. It is so bad, it forces them to compete even against their own brand of cars which are made in other Asean countries.

Somehow they must show all and sundry that, after 25 years of government coddling, they are still too weak to compete against their own brands made elsewhere.

* * *

THEY don't find that funny, of course, because their latest recycled beef is the influx of used vehicles through Subic, albeit with a different twist.

Now they are attacking the auction companies. From what I gathered, all in all, only three groups do the auction. One operates in Subic, and the other two, outside.

Each of them holds three auctions every year, and in each auction, they would be extremely lucky to sell 200 units of the illegal imported secondhand SUVs.

In a year, therefore, if I still know my arithmetic, the auction companies can sell used imported SUVs of even less than 2,000 units. That is the volume of one dealer.

* * *

CAR companies claim that the tariff cut under Afta must wait, precisely because the auction companies are stealing business away from them. Is that so?

Car companies are so hard up, you actually have to wait for more than a month, at the very least, depending on your choice of color, if you want to buy any of their models.

Definitely, the car companies needed a new issue. Tax payment is now the latest issue, courtesy of a congressman, against the imported used vehicles.

Now I have no way of knowing if those guys in Subic are the biggest tax evaders in this country. Maybe they don't pay taxes. It is hard to say.

It's just that official records of the Bureau of Customs showed that its collection in Subic has been going up steadily the past couple of years.

* * *

BUT if I remember correctly, even this cute administration, and every administration, for that matter, had big controversial issues on the tax payments of car companies.

Last October, for instance, news broke out that the Board of Investments ordered the car and truck companies to settle their tax deficiency of some 27 percent.

The so-called deficiency, down here, simply means they did not pay the right amount of tax. The BOI noted it applied on all their previous importation.

That was a lot of money. The government did not have a big headache yet from its budget deficit. To this cute administration today, the "deficiency" must be a fortune.

* * *

OUR vehicle program started about the time I became a reporter. We're both more than 25 years in our separate rackets. Do we have an honest-to-goodness vehicle industry?

Yet our government has given vehicle companies all sorts of incentives, not the least of them were the multimillion-peso tax holidays.

Despite all those tax breaks, at least as far as the Department of Finance was concerned, the vehicle companies still managed to find ways to cheat on taxes.

Only recently, the DOF and the car companies had a nasty spat on the size of car seats. Well, it determines how much taxes the car companies are allowed not to pay.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, September 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	40,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	48.5	46.5	48.5	1,183,200
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	1,350
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29	143,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	90,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	34.5	177,400
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	28,200
Security Bank Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	16,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	19.25	18.75	19	109,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1155	1155	1155	1155	110
Sun Life Financial Serv.	890	895	885	895	3,400
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24.5	24	24.5	32,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.55	6,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	520	535	520	535	5,080
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	2,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.027	0.029	9,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
Piltel	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,750,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	292.5	305	292.5	300	219,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	80,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	32,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19	19	19	8,500
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	148,700
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.58	1.62	3,022,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	270,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	80,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	1,220,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.14	70,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	67,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31	31	18,200
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49.5	49	49.5	88,400
San Miguel Corp. B	53	54	53	54	442,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.38	90,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	50,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	3,201,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.44	2.48	2.42	2.44	1,882,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	290,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.7	49,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.26	26,950,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.19	2,100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	272,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	1,030,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	260,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	110,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.59	1,700,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,470,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	610,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	60,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	450,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	3,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	190,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	24.75	24.75	185,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	1,569,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	5,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.06	1.1	12,809,000
City & Land Developers	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	1,947,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	30,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	400,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	16,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0026	0.0024	0.0026	26,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000

Gov't to adopt three-year IPP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments wants the investment priorities plan (IPP), an annual listing of the areas where the government wants businessmen to put their money, to be in effect for three years as part of the ongoing reform measures to enhance investment promotion efforts.

A BOI source said a longer IPP would dovetail with the normal gestation period of investment projects that require more than 12 months to complete their feasibility studies, application processing and project implementation.

The BOI source noted that annual changes in the IPP have caused a lot of confusion among prospective investors in the country. This, he said, had in many cases led to lost opportunities after investors dropped the Philippines among their choices of investment sites.

The source noted that since investment areas in the IPP were changing every year, a number of investors get frustrated when, after deciding to pick the Philippines for their factory site, they find out that their project is not covered by the new incentives in the new IPP.

The IPP is drawn up annually by the BOI following a series of public hearings nationwide to determine which investment sectors and areas should the government shower with more incentives to attract investor interest.

The past IPPs reflected the government's preferences in the past years such as power generation plants during the Ramos years and information technology in the Estrada administration.

Aside from lengthening the IPP effectivity period, the BOI is also pushing for the broadening of the coverage of least developed areas in the IPP to include municipalities near urban centers.

The BOI source said a number of municipalities near urban centers such as Cebu City and Davao City had complained that they were hardly getting investments because projects in their areas were ineligible for incentives under the IPP due to their proximity to areas classified by the government as developed.

The BOI source said the agency wanted to correct this policy flaw that tended to leave behind poor municipalities near urban centers in the race to get new investments.

The IPP reforms are being drawn up in tandem with the BOI's lobbying to boost its incentives portfolio, which has a maximum of six- to eight-year income tax holiday as its main come-on. The BOI wants to extend the tax breaks to 12 years, reinstate tax- and duty-free capital importation, and adopt the net operating loss carry-over and accelerated depreciation scheme to spark investor interest in the country. BOI investments are down 63 percent to P13.34 billion in the first six months this year from P36.14 billion during the same period a year ago.

Stocks end up

From page B1

"There were a lot of issues that broke their resistance levels, and these issues were heavy index stocks. That's a good sign," said Jo-ann Bueno-Eala, fund manager at Bank of the Philippine Islands-Trust.

"For this to be sustained, we need volume to be present. We really need the foreign investors back."

The main index staged a late rally to end 19.82 points or 1.75 percent higher at 1,153.41 points, breaking its initial resistance of 1,140 to 1,143, analysts said.

The market has gained 55.32 points, or 5 percent, in the last six sessions, cutting its losses so far this year to just 1.26 percent.

Turnover rose slightly to P268.4 million from P259.18 million. Gainers were in a near two-to-one majority. ***Reuters***

6-mo. sales of pre-need plans hit ₱20B

PRE-NEED companies in the country posted a slight increase in the value of their sales during the first half of this year despite a decline in the number of plans sold during the period.

Data from the Securities and Exchange Commission's non-traditional securities and instruments department showed that the contract price of the pre-need plans sold in the first half reached P19.988 billion or one percent more than the P19.72 billion in sales posted in the comparative period last year.

Pension plans accounted for the bulk of the sales with P12.1 billion, 20 percent higher than the comparative figure last year.

Education plans made up P6.9 billion of the total contract value of plans sold or 13.68 percent less than the year-ago level.

Elena R. Torrijos

Exemptions from tender offer, broker-director rules remain

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has extended by one more year its earlier resolutions providing exemptions from the tender offer and broker-director rules in order to encourage increased activity in the local stock market.

In a special resolution promulgated on Sept. 12 last year, the SEC raised temporarily to 35 percent the trigger threshold for tender offers from 15 percent or more for a single acquisition and 30 percent for a one-year creeping acquisition.

In effect, any person or group of persons acting in concert who want to acquire 35 percent or more interest in a publicly held company must also offer to purchase the shares of the other shareholders at the same price offered for the 35 percent or more equity.

The commission had also granted exemptions from Section 30.1 of the Securities Regulation Code prohibiting brokers or dealers from trading listed securities of any company where the stockholders, directors or certain other employees or officers of the broker and dealer and their relatives to the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity was holding a position or office of trust and responsibility.

Brokers or dealers may be allowed to trade such securities provided they disclose their transactions within five days after the transactions were made.

In an executive meeting on Sept. 10, the commission agreed to extend these resolutions to Sept. 11 next year. Without the extension, the resolutions would have expired today.

In a letter to Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung, SEC market regulation department director Jose Aquino said the commission in its executive committee meeting had also directed brokers to disclose more information on transactions related to the broker-director rule.

DISCLOSURES

ISLAND Information & Technology Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 22, 2 p.m. at the Casino Español de Manila in Ermita.

* * *

A.BROWN Co. Inc. bought 300,000 of its own shares at P0.50 per share.

* * *

RAMON Cuervo III was elected as an additional independent director of **Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.**

* * *

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 26, 10 a.m. at the 7/F board room of Chemphil Building, Makati City. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a resolution was promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following case on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
4756 (Resolution)	Philippine Shipping Exchange Inc. vs. Restituto Sune, The Heirs of the late Amalia Arguelles and Department of Agrarian Reform	March 15, 2002

Counsels and parties to this case, particularly the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
4756	Atty. Darril P. Venus	2nd Floor, City Agriculturist Bldg., Aduana St., Iloilo City
	The President/Manager Philippine Shipping Exchange Inc.	Quezon City, Manila
	The Manager Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp.	Brgy. Buhang Jaro Iloilo City

are hereby advised to get a copy of the resolution from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on this case shall become final and executory.

September 2, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

September 5 & 12, 2002 – Inquirer

Garments, textile exports down 9% in first 8 months

THE COUNTRY'S garments and textile exports plunged by nearly 9 percent in the first eight months this year but the government considered this an improvement from the previous months' performance as it remained upbeat on the industry's prospects.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports fell 8.7 percent to $1.9 billion from January to August this year from $2.08 billion during the same period last year.

GTEB officer in charge Serafin Juliano reported that this was an "improvement" from the 7-month export data that showed a 9.9-percent decline in export shipments. He attributed the industry's progress to the continued improvement in the US market, recovery of the European Union market, broadening of the quota markets and the strong rebound in the sales of non-apparel and textile products.

Exports to the US, which accounted for 74 percent of total industry sales, tumbled 11.9 percent to $1.4 billion in the first eight months this year from $1.59 billion a year ago. Juliano noted that the US market shrank by as much as 27 percent in the first quarter this year.

Sales to Europe, the country's second biggest export market, rose 3.85 percent to $212.4 million during the period covered from last year's $220.6 million.

The GTEB noted a slight improvement in non-quota markets which rose an aggregate 2.2 percent to $233.3 million in the first eight months this year from $228.4 million during the same period last year. Juliano cited the significant growth in non-traditional markets such as South Korea (up 332 percent) and China (up 121 percent), which more than made up for the decline in the top non-quota markets such as Japan and the United Arab Emirates. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

CURRENCIES

Sept. 11, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.024695	1.000000	51.9980
Japan	Yen	0.008547	0.008341	0.4337
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593606	1.555200	80.8673
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131373	0.128207	6.6665
Switzerland	Franc	0.685049	0.668539	34.7627
Canada	Dollar	0.651800	0.636092	33.0755
Singapore	Dollar	0.582810	0.568764	29.5746
Australia	Dollar	0.560800	0.547285	28.4577
Bahrain	Dinar	2.718169	2.652661	137.9331
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.273252	0.266667	13.8662
Brunei	Dollar	0.584204	0.570125	29.6454
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024127	0.023546	1.2243
UAE	Dirham	0.279018	0.272294	14.1587
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000839	0.0436
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.975900	50.7448
Argentina	Real	0.283849	0.277008	14.4039
Brazil	Real	0.326648	0.318776	16.5757
Denmark	Kroner	0.134651	0.131406	6.8328
India	Rupee	0.021163	0.020653	1.0739
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269693	0.263193	13.6855
Mexico	New Peso	0.102690	0.100215	5.2110
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481394	0.469792	24.4282
Norway	Kroner	0.135211	0.131952	6.8612
Pakistan	Rupee	0.135211	0.016920	0.8798
South Africa	Rand	0.096943	0.094607	4.9194
Sweden	Kroner	0.108918	0.106293	5.5270
Syria	Pound	0.023183	0.022624	1.1764
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029962	0.029240	1.5204
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000697	0.000680	0.0354

PUMP-PRIMING SCHEME

Gov't rules out deficit-spending strategy

By Doris C. Dumlao

CANLAS

THE MACAPAGAL administration has ruled out calls to resort to counter-cyclical or a deficit-spending fiscal policy to pump prime the economy for the remainder of its term.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said in an economic forum that the administration would not heed the advice of some economists to relax fiscal policy to spur additional output growth from the economy.

"Government deficit-spending financed by borrowing is not helpful. If it persists, it is, in fact, harmful to the economy," Canlas said.

"When the government borrows to finance the deficit, it absorbs funds that otherwise the private sector can use. Private spending is replaced by government spending, which is generally less productive," he noted.

Canlas said this could be verified during occasions when government spending was used in an attempt to counter a downswing in the business cycle. In 1999, he said that when the Estrada administration increased government spending by 6.7 percent, this was accompanied by a 2.6-percent growth in personal consumption. In 2000, when the growth in government spending slowed down a bit to 6.1 percent, the growth of personal consumption was up by 3.5 percent.

"These figures suggest that government spending replaces some private consumption," he said.

Citing newly evolved economic models, Canlas said resorting to infinite borrowing was not feasible as market agents would anticipate that at some future date, the central bank, perhaps for political reasons, would accommodate by lending to the government.

"Money supply will rise, triggering inflationary expectation. If inflation is expected to rise tomorrow, lenders will ask for a higher interest rate today to preserve real earnings," Canlas said.

"Nominal interest rates increase in the current period as lenders do not wait for future inflation to roll around before adjusting their lending rates," he said.

It will neither be helpful if the government would decide to borrow abroad if domestic interest rates would rise, Canlas said, as there would still be some impact on onshore expectations.

"Lenders in the Philippines will charge an interest rate equal to the opportunity costs of their funds placed abroad, adjusted for the expected movements in the peso-dollar exchange rate," he noted.

On the other hand, Canlas insisted that the deficit-reduction program of the administration was delivering desirable macroeconomic outcomes. He noted that even if government spending grew by only 0.3 percent in real terms, this was compensated by the growth in personal consumption of 3.6 percent or higher than when the government was boosting its spending by over 6 percent.

As of the first half of this year, he also noted that real gross domestic product grew by 4.1 percent although government spending was flat while personal consumption expanded by 3.6 percent, matching its growth rate a year ago.

"I am aware that some critics of the administration's deficit-reduction program are saying that public investments that support long-run growth are being sacrificed. The fear is unfounded. It is a responsible deficit-reduction program, one that protects spending that matters for long-run growth with equity," Canlas said.

For instance, Canlas said the inclusion of a P20-billion budget for the modernization of agriculture and fishery had improved the resiliency of the agriculture sector.

The national budget also includes an appropriation for the Third Elementary Education project, a World Bank-assisted project (with zero disbursement rate in the previous administration) that has been corrected, he noted.

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Study says GNP growth not enough to curb poverty

IT IS not enough for the gross national product (GNP) to grow at a high rate in order for the government to succeed in fighting poverty.

"It is important that the poor benefit from this growth," said Celia M. Reyes, a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in a perspective paper titled "The Poverty Fight: Have We Made an Impact?"

Data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) indicated that the proportion of the population who are poor had steadily declined from 49.2 percent in 1985 to 36.9 percent in 1997. However, the crisis in 1997-1998 caused poverty incidence to go up to 39.5 percent in 2000. In terms of magnitude, the number of poor has increased from 26.7 million in 1985 to 26.8 million in 1997. This went up further to 30.8 million in 2000.

Reyes noted that the poverty reduction was due mainly to economic growth and not to distribution.

"Economic growth resulted in an increase in per capita income, thereby reducing the incidence of poverty. However, the inequitable distribution of income prevented the poor from benefiting fully from this growth," Reyes explained.

Given this condition, Reyes suggested that it was imperative that the country has programs directed to the poor. Otherwise, she cautioned that it was possible that even if the Philippines experiences growth, it would not make significant progress in its fight against poverty. Likewise, she pointed out the importance of the role of government bodies like the National Anti-Poverty Commission in overseeing the poverty reduction programs.

Congress joins plastics tariff row

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONGRESS has joined the intensifying debate on plastic and resins duties with the House committee on trade and industry conducting a probe on the impact of the petrochemical firms' plea for more tariff protection up to 2010.

In a resolution filed by Rep. Harry Angping, the trade and industry committee will conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, of the impact on consumers of a reduction or maintenance of tariff rates on raw materials for plastic products. Angping said the probe was aimed at coming up with recommendatory measures to address this issue.

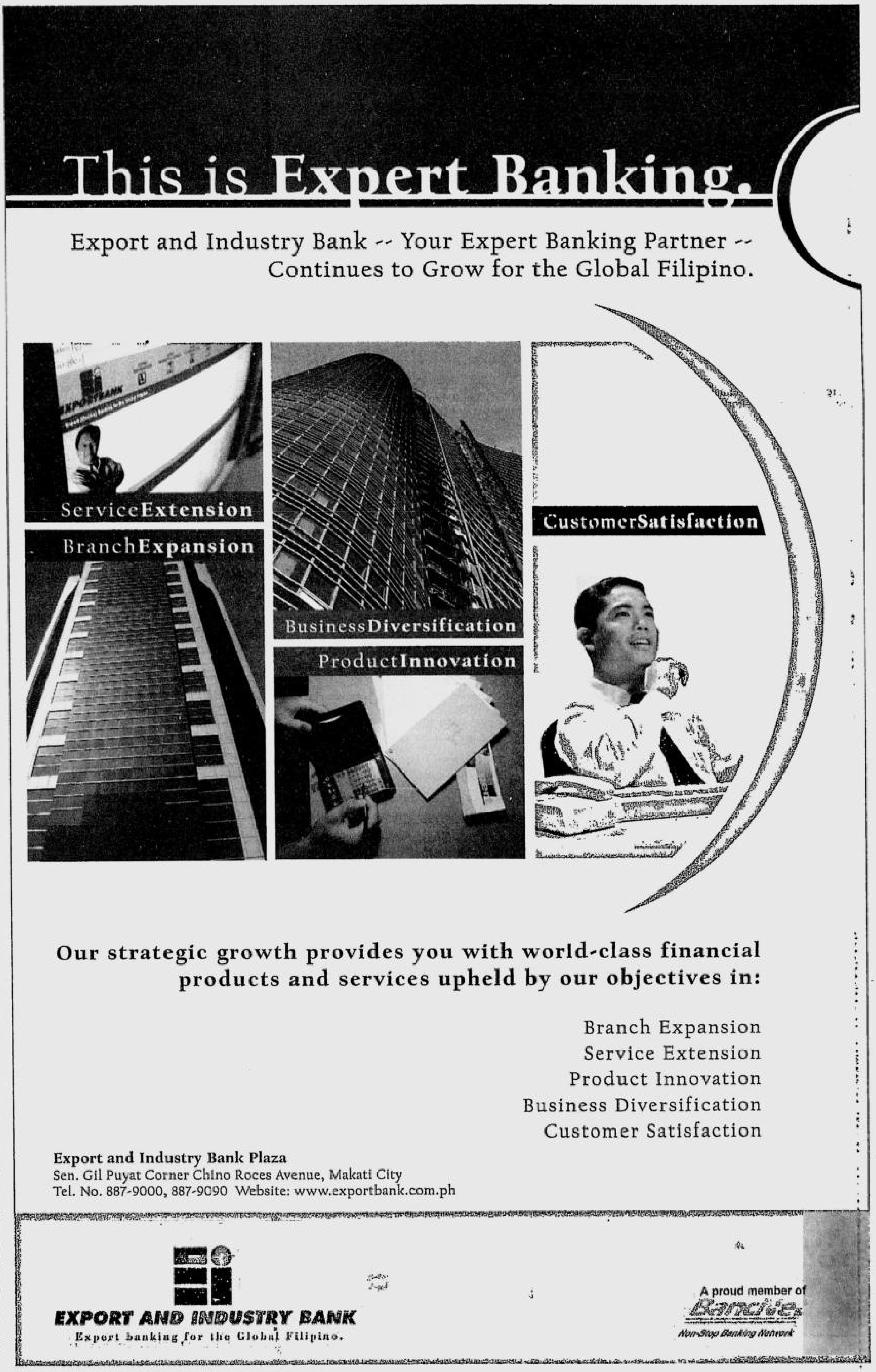
"There is a perception that maintaining the tariff rates at its present levels would be inimical to the viability of manufacturing industries both local and foreign," Angping said.

The Manila lawmaker noted that some multinational corporations were purportedly looking at the expected reduction of tariffs in January 2003 as one of the key factors for their decision to retain their manufacturing operations in the country.

Tariffs on resins (the base materials for finished plastic products) are scheduled for reduction from 15 percent to 5 percent next year under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT) rate.

But petrochemical firms have petitioned the government to raise duty up to 30 percent or maintain the current tariff rate up to 2010 to give them more time to strengthen their operations and build a naphtha cracker considering that they were still at their infancy stage.

Their petition is currently under review by the Tariff Commission, which has been ordered by the President to be more sensitive to the plight of distressed industries in reviewing their pleas for a delay in the Afta tariff cuts.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
First Judicial Region
Branch VIII
La Trinidad, Benguet

CESAR L. MACAGNE,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
JOSEPHINE LUPANTE
and
FLORENDO LUPANTE
Respondents.

CIVIL CASE NO.
01-CV-1682

For:
SPECIFIC
PERFORMANCE, ETC.
x---------------------x

DECISION

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing premises, judgement by default is hereby rendered in favor of the plaintiff Cesar L. Macagne and against the defendant Spouses Josephine and Florendo Lupante, ordering them to

1. Surrender unto the complainant the original duplicate owner's copy of TCT. No. T-42479 so that the Real Estate Mortgage may be registered; or if unable to do so, to pay back the principal amount of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (P400,000.00) PESOS including its accrued interest at seven percent (7%) each month commencing from October 26, 2001 until fully paid;
2. Pay TEN THOUSAND (P10,000.00) PESOS representing attorney's fees, and
3. To pay the costs.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS this 28th day of June 2002 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

(Sgd.) MARYBELLE L. DEMOT MARINAS
Presiding Judge

(PDI – Sept. 12, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
First Judicial Region
Branch VIII
La Trinidad, Benguet

STEPHEN TOLDING,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
JOSEPHINE LUPANTE
and
FLORENDO LUPANTE
Respondents.

CIVIL CASE NO.
01-CV-1683

For:
SPECIFIC
PERFORMANCE, ETC.
x---------------------x

DECISION

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing premises, judgement by default is hereby rendered in favor of the plaintiff Stephen Tolding and against the defendant Spouses Josephine and Florendo Lupante, ordering them to:

1. Surrender unto the plaintiff the original duplicate owner's copy of TCT. No. T-42479 so that the Real Estate Mortgage may be registered; or if unable to do so, to pay back the principal amount of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR THOUSAND (P284,000.00) PESOS including its accrued interest at seven percent (7%) a month commencing from November 8, 2001 until fully paid;
2. Pay TEN THOUSAND (P10,000.00) PESOS representing attorney's fees, and
3. To pay the costs.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS this 28th day of June 2002 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

(Sgd.) MARYBELLE L. DEMOT MARINAS
Presiding Judge

(PDI – Sept. 12, 2002)

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JBIC Manila Office is seeking a:

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Who will be assigned to assist JBIC Chief Representative to, among others, monitor, review and coordinate with various government agencies and other stakeholders with respect to implementation of JBIC funded projects in the Philippines.

Required qualifications are:

(i) Age between 26 and 35 years old;
(ii) Bachelor or Master's degree in Economics, Business, Engineering or other related fields;
(iii) Five to ten years of professional experience in a responsible position related to Foreign Development Aid, Management Consulting and Project / Financial Management with government or private sector;
(iv) Must be highly proficient in written and oral communication in English; and
(v) Excellent computer skills.

Interested persons meeting the above requirements should submit a letter of interest together with curriculum vitaé, bio-data, education, professional experience, names of three referees, current salary, and copy of diploma, before Monday, September 30, 2002 to:

Chief Representative
Japan Bank for International Cooperation
Manila Office
31st Floor, Citibank Tower, Valero St., Corner
Villar St., Makati City, Metro Manila

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Batanes

Local Government and Finance Development Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment
Date: September 8, 2002
SP-21-02
Loan No. 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment.
2. The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Batanes now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of brand new heavy equipment thru direct importation; one (1) unit Pay Loader; one (1) unit 30-tonner Crane; one (1) unit Excavator; three (3) units 6 Wheeler Dumptruck.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines; Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Engr. Rodolfo de Borja, Engineer III/ SPMO Staff and inspect the bidding documents at the SPMO Office, Provincial Capitol, Basco, Batanes from September 8 to October 22, 2002.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash or manager's check. The document will be sent by courier service.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M. of **October 22, 2002.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of three percent (3.0%) of the bid price in the form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee, letter of credit or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **October 22, 2002** at 10:00 A.M.

    BAC Chairman/Provincial Governor
    c/o BAC Secretariat
    2/F, Provincial Governor's Office, Provincial Capitol Complex
    Basco, Batanes 3900
    Philippines Tel. No. (098) 5400 - 602

7. A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 P.M. on **October 8, 2002** at the 2/F HRTC Building, Provincial Capitol, Basco, Batanes.

(Sgd.) HON. VICENTE S. GATO
BAC Chairman/Provincial Governor

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 12, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO C. AGUADO has been settled extrajudicially by his heirs per Doc#40, Page#9, Book#XVIII, Series of 2002 by Notary Public Angelo G. Medina of Pasig City
(PDI- Sept. 5, 12 & 19, 2002)

ERRATUM

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION
PEATC Compound, San Dionisio
Aguinaldo Blvd., Parañaque City

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE BID DATE FOR "REPAVING/RESURFACING OF IDENTIFIED ASPHALT PAVEMENT, BLEEDING, CROCODILE CRACKING & SHOVING/RUTTING AREAS ALONG THE R-I EXPRESSWAY" SHALL BE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

(Sgd.) DELIA C. HIPOLITO
BAC Chairman

US economy withstood 9/11 better than hoped

WESTERN tourists visit the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest buildings in the world, in Kuala Lumpur, a year after the attacks in the United States that killed some 3,000 people on Sept. 11. Many people housed at the towers failed to turn up for work, while tourists could be seen walking about at its base. AFP

WASHINGTON—The US economy withstood last year's terrorist strikes better than many experts had anticipated, averting a feared downward spiral that could have dragged down the global economy, economists said, as Americans on Wednesday marked the first anniversary of the attacks on its soil.

Although the United States' emergence from recession remains fragile and fraught with risks, analysts say the economy has shown its mettle by coming out of its downturn while absorbing the massive impact of the terrorist attacks.

Americans have retrenched to an extent since the attacks, but some of the changes have been beneficial to the overall economy, including increased investment in homes and cars, encouraged by lower interest rates.

"Far from deepening and extending the recession, the attacks unleashed lower energy prices and triggered a policy response that underpinned the gradual improvement then under way," write Morgan Stanley economists Richard Berner and David Greenlaw.

With the US economy at a virtual standstill in the wake of Sept. 11, gross domestic product declined at a 0.3-percent pace—the third quarter of a moderate downturn, according to recently revised US figures.

The economy bounced back in the October-December 2001 quarter, expanding at a 2.7-percent rate, and then 5 percent in the first quarter of 2002, although second quarter growth cooled to a 1.1-percent pace.

"People who believed the economy would seize up after Sept. 11 had no perspective on the core qualities of the US economy," said Steven Wieting, senior economist at Salomon Smith Barney.

Wieting pointed out that some changes in consumer activity have in fact helped the economy since the terror attacks.

"People were not interested in foreign travel, so money could have been spent on other things," he noted. "Homes and cars are on their priority list."

Some economists credit the US auto industry with helping the economy avert a deeper decline by adopting what appeared to be a risky strategy of an aggressive marketing campaign, helped by zero percent financing, less than two weeks after the attacks.

"Consumer spending has been the backbone of the current economic recovery, and auto sales have been the primary power behind consumer spending," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo Bank.

"I could not overemphasize the importance of autos," said Sohn, who noted that the auto industry and related sectors account for one out of every six US jobs.

Although the US auto industry cut tens of thousands of jobs last year amid slumping sales, the strategy first adopted by General Motors and followed by most of its rivals after the September attacks has boosted sales this year to near-record levels and averted more job losses that could have crushed consumer activity. *AFP*

Insurance industry weathers double blow

GENEVA—The global insurance industry was well covered for the Sept. 11 attacks despite the fact that it sustained its most expensive and least predictable blow, an insurance industry think tank said on Tuesday.

In a study, the Geneva-based International Association for the Study of Insurance Industry Economics estimated that the terror attacks on the United States cost $40 billion to $50 billion.

"This is not an American event because more than half the payouts will come from non-American companies and international re-insurance companies," Patrick Liedke, secretary general of the association said.

"The good news is that the industry can cope with these events. The unthinkable was insured, that is very important," he added.

However, insurance companies face a "double blow" due to the drop in the value of their investments in world stock markets in recent months, according to the research group, which has close ties with major insurance firms worldwide.

Liedke said the industry had had to put aside an additional $80 billion to cover the financial slump, the need to increase reserves and a changed risk environment following Sept. 11.

Thomas Hess, chief economist at reinsurance giant Swiss Re, estimated that the drop in the value of invested stock and bonds had cost insurance companies about $53 billion.

"But we have had few insolvencies after this extraordinary event, so the system works," Hess said.

Both men emphasized that Sept. 11 had changed thinking within the insurance industry, notably that man-made catastrophes could be as expensive as natural disasters.

The second most expensive insurance event in history is Hurricane Andrew, which swept across the southern United States and Caribbean in 1992, causing about $25 billion of damage. *AFP*

Japanese economy pulls off better performance in April-June quarter

TOKYO—Japan's economy grew at a faster rate than first estimated in the June quarter, the government said Wednesday, surprising some economists who had expected the figure to be slashed due to sluggish corporate investment.

Gross domestic product expanded by a revised 0.6 percent in the three months to June from the previous quarter compared with an initial estimate of 0.5 percent announced on Aug. 30, the Cabinet Office said.

A drop in imports and rising stockpiles of goods boosted the headline figure but economists warned falling external demand and government inaction would restrict future growth prospects.

"The net export contribution was upgraded because import data for June was lower than expected," a government official told reporters.

Net export growth was revised to 0.4 percent from 0.3 percent seen earlier, with the rise in imports cut to 2.6 percent from 3.8 percent.

An increase in inventories in response to renewed demand from overseas during the first half of the year also boosted the overall figure.

Private-sector inventory growth was raised to 0.2 percent from flat. But a likely slump in overseas orders in the second half of the year could leave firms with stockpiles they were unable to sell, economists warned.

"Exports are expected to run out of steam in the third quarter and perhaps become a drag rather than a driver," said JP Morgan chief economist Masaaki Kanno.

"Meanwhile, capex (capital expenditure) is a little stronger than expected," he said.

Investment by companies declined 0.4 percent on the quarter, better than the initial estimate of a 0.5-percent fall. This caught out many analysts who had expected a downgrade following a bearish capital expenditure report by the Ministry of Finance last week.

"Economists are still trying to work out what caused the upward revision rather than a downward revision," admitted Kanno.

The finance ministry said last Thursday that investment by Japanese firms fell 2.6 percent in the June quarter, much steeper than a preliminary estimate by the Cabinet Office of a 1.1-percent drop.

Kanno, however, was optimistic about the trend of corporate expenditure in the coming months. *AFP*

WorldCom to seek new CEO, hopes to emerge from bankruptcy

WASHINGTON—WorldCom Inc. said Tuesday that it was "actively" seeking a permanent chief executive to replace interim chief John Sidgmore, and that it was on track to emerge from bankruptcy next year.

The telecom group, which on July 22 became the largest US firm to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, said Sidgmore "will remain in his current position as president and CEO until a successor can be retained, which the company believes can be accomplished in an accelerated timeframe."

The company "remains on track to restructure and emerge from Chapter 11 protection in mid-2003," WorldCom said in a statement from its headquarters in Clinton, Mississippi..

Sidgmore, who replaced Bernie Ebbers in April, will return to his role as vice chair after a new chief executive is named, the company said. Bert Roberts will continue in his role as chair of the board.

"I have concluded that having moved WorldCom through the initial phase of the bankruptcy process now is the appropriate time for the company to initiate a search for a long-term CEO," said Sidgmore.

"By returning to my vice chairman role, after the search is complete, I, along with Bert Roberts will be able to remain active in a strategic capacity while our new CEO manages the day-to-day operations of the company and the overall bankruptcy process." The company statement said Sidgmore "always intended for his appointment in April 2002 to be an interim solution in response to the swift departure of WorldCom's former CEO."

Sidgmore was tapped to lead WorldCom in April as the company sank under a mountain of debt and faced a government inquiry into its finances. *AFP*

Bridgestone/Firestone to recall tires

TOKYO—Japan's top tire maker Bridgestone Corp. said Wednesday its troubled US subsidiary was voluntarily recalling more than 19,000 tires in the United States due to possible minor defects.

Bridgestone/Firestone North American Tire LLC would recall 18,912 tires produced at its plant in Wilson, North Carolina, to ensure the recovery of 890 units produced between April 12 and 15.

Firestone found that a piece of equipment at the plant was not functioning correctly at the time.

The malfunction could have trapped pockets of air between the tread and the tread under-cushion, a rubber layer in the tire, the company said.

This could lead to a small "chunk out" of tread material, it said.

Bridgestone's US unit was also recalling 754 tires made in La Vergne, Tennessee, over a 21-day period starting Sept. 23, 2001, for incorrect markings.

No accidents have been reported related to the tires being recalled.

Bridgestone/Firestone had been hit by massive recall problems starting summer 2000, after a spate of accidents involving Firestone-fitted Ford Explorer vehicles, which US authorities say claimed 271 lives.

Bridgestone has settled some 700 court cases related to the tire recall scandal but has warned of possible further litigation. *AFP*

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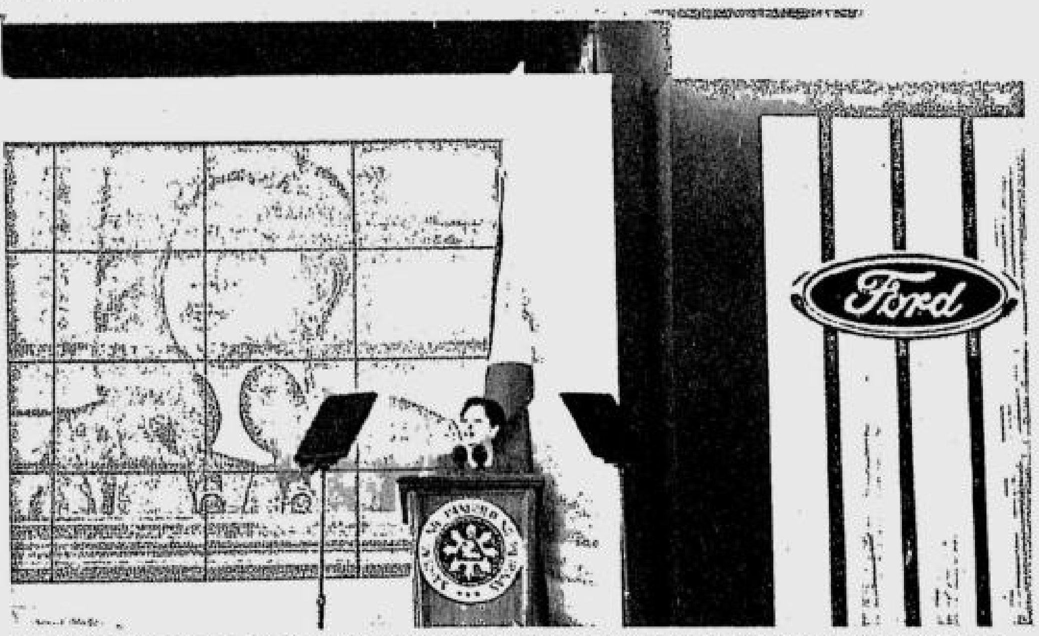
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3316 Series of 2002

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

She came, she saw, she extolled 'American Road'



PRESIDENT Macapagal lauding automobile players for boosting the country's image in the automotive export industry.

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

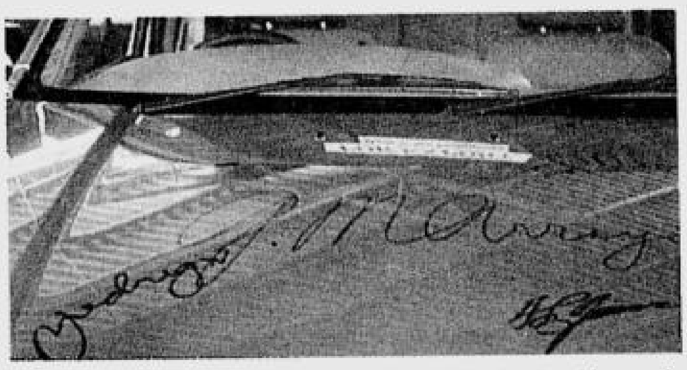
IF she sought any "Escape" from the economic doldrums and terrorist threats the country was facing, she came to the right place.

Wearing a lipstick-red dress at the Ford Export Program launch Sept. 9, President Macapagal-Arroyo looked at the bright side of things and lauded automobile players for boosting the country's image in the automotive export industry, helping create jobs and supporting local autoparts makers.

• Tailor-made incentives

Ms Macapagal stressed that the Board of Investments is working with the Department of Finance to have "tailor-made incentives for the automobile industry," saying they could gain this extra if they pump in additional investments of $100 million in the next two or three years.

Ford Motor Co. Asean president John Parker and American Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone were present during the event.



THE VEHICLE bearing the signatures of the Philippine President and other important guests.

Ms Macapagal commended Ford, particularly its contribution to foreign exchange earnings which she pegged at $36 million. She also said the automotive industry is especially valuable because of its many job-creating linkages, expressing her hope that more workers would be hired to increase the employment rate.

The President urged the manufacturing sector to maintain the momentum in the export growth.

Said Ms Macapagal: "This year, the source of growth has switched back to export and to manufacturing and we should maintain this. Momentum that the manufacturing sector has achieved once again."

The President said she made the trip to the Calabarzon area to celebrate the expansions of Nestlé Philippines and Ford Motor Philippines. Ford Motor Philippines has invested an additional P700 million to support its two export products—Ford Lynx and Ford Escape. With this, Ford has strengthened its position as the only exporter of completely built-up vehicles to other Asean countries.

Ford launched the Escape, its SUV that would be assembled at its P4-billion manufacturing facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and exported to Thailand and Indonesia. Ford Escape, which will be offered in 4x2 XLS and 4x4 XLT, goes on sale locally this month at Ford dealerships.

Ford Philippines president Henry Co said the manufacture and export of the Ford Escape boosts Ford's 2002 export target of 6,000 vehicles to Thailand and Indonesia this year. In 2003, Ford plans to export another 12,000 vehicles. Exports are expected to total 65,000 vehicle units within the next five years.

"This year's exports alone are estimated to generate foreign exchange earnings of around $57 million, which would help shore up our country's dollar reserves," he said.

Its investments in the country amount to $200 million, while Ford invested $300 million in China and $300 million in India. Ms Macapagal said that she was waiting for Ford's next $100-million investment in the Philippines.

Healthy domestic market

Co said that export could only be strong and competitive if there were a healthy domestic market base. Ms Macapagal stressed that the country should strengthen the capacity of the domestic market. She cited that 80 percent of the Ford assembly plant's cars are for export while only 20 percent of cars are earmarked for the domestic market.

"But that is not necessarily by choice. It is because the 20 percent is what the domestic market can absorb. We should try to increase the capacity of the domestic market so that more of the cars can be produced and sold for the domestic market.

"By developing small and medium entrepreneurs who will be able to afford to buy their first car or an additional car, we hope to develop a good domestic market for automobiles," she said.

The President also said that by developing the model vehicle industry, the country hopes to have a better export performance in motor vehicle parts and components.

"I hope Ford will continue to be our largest buyer of local autoparts components," she said. Co assured the President that the latest export program is but part of a larger Ford commitment to the Philippines.

The President said it is with the support of industry players like Ford that the country will meet export targets and also develop the small and medium enterprises.

Shell-Ferrari Craze N' Race starts Sunday

TEN round-trip packages inclusive of hotel accommodations and special access to the Shell Hospitality Suite at the opening races of the 2003 F1 Grand Prix in Melbourne, Australia, plus instant authentic Ferrari premium items will be raffled off through the Shell Ferrari Craze N' Race promo. This is in celebration of the triple win the Shell-Ferrari-Schumacher team garnered in the 2002 F1 Grand Prix.

Starting Sept. 15, Shell customers who purchase P500 worth of any Shell gasoline (Velocity, Formula Shell Premium, or unleaded) or one-liter purchase of Shell Helix are given a raffle coupon that will give them the chance to watch the 2003 F1 Australia race.

The same purchase will also entitle the customers to win instant authentic Ferrari premium items if spotted by the Shell roving promo team randomly visiting the Shell service stations.

Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

The grand raffle will be held at the Rockwell Tent in Makati on Oct. 25. Participating Shell service stations and schedules for the awarding of instant prizes will be announced during programs aired on Citilite 88.3, WAVE 89.1, dwTM 89.9, 103.5 Klite, dwRT 99.5 and CrossOver.

The successful partnership of Shell and Ferrari was also celebrated with a victory party held Sept. 6 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati.

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Trooper Club embarks on social mission

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

SAN Jose del Monte in Bulacan is the city (outside Metro Manila) one will encounter while driving northeastward via Quirino Highway in Fairview, Quezon City. This is where Isuzu together with Caltex and non-government organization UP Pahinugod, went recently for a medical mission with an indigenous community based there.

The medical mission, sponsored by the newly formed Trooper Club of Isuzu, proceeded to the Karahumi Settlement in Barangay San Isidro where a community of Dumagats reside. Dennis Millan of the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences briefed the group before the trip that the Dumagats are among the original inhabitants of the Philippines who live as hunters and rattan traders. "Although the Dumagats were able to preserve some of their traditional customs and beliefs, most of them are already Christianized. Some even have adapted modern ways of life—chiefly the result of integration and intermarriage," Millan reminded the group.

The Dumagats living in this part of the Sierra Madre mountain range between Norzagaray, Bulacan and Montalban, Rizal, lack access to basic health services. Most of the time, they rely on herbs to treat ailments.

Said UP Pahinungod coordinator Rizza Suarez: "While it is true that the Dumagat culture is fading fast and should be preserved, we should not deny them health care services. This is why we decided to hold a medical mission here and the 22 doctors and health professionals who participated could provide immediate response to their medical needs."

Trooper Club

This is the first time that Isuzu is in this type of endeavor. Said Isuzu Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino: "When the Trooper Club was still being conceived early this September, we were thinking what sort of image and mission this club should carry. We realized that since most Trooper owners—numbering between 5,000 and 6,000—belong to the more financially stable and influential group of individuals, why not embark on a more socially responsible undertaking? This club not only should be about fun and adventure but should possess strong commitment to society as well."

ISUZU vehicles bring doctors and health workers to the Karahumi Settlement in Barangay San Isidro for the one-day medical mission.

ISHINO distributes grocery bags and used clothes to the Dumagats. He is assisted by Gonzales.

COUGH and colds medicines as well as vitamins were given to the Dumagats.

Isuzu has provided the transport vehicles as well as the medicines and grocery bags distributed to 150 households that trooped to one of the abandoned brick buildings that served as the center for the whole-day medical mission. "We also asked our employees to donate old clothes and we were able to gather 150 bags of these," reported Myrna Gonzales, Isuzu Philippines senior manager for corporate affairs.

According to Ishino, the Trooper Club is open to all owners of not only the Trooper but also older models. The Isuzu Trooper was first launched in 1996 and since then several model updates were introduced in the country.

Philip Yambao, chief of the National Commission on Indigenous People, in coordination with the barangay officials said that through the efforts of the sponsors, some 400 Dumagats including children were given access to dental, pediatric and other medical services.

"It's a good thing we still have corporations like Isuzu and Caltex that have a soft spot to our less fortunate members of the community," said Yambao. "There are so many doctors and health workers out there who are willing to lend their time and talent to these endeavors, thanks to the support of these corporations, these volunteers are fulfilling their mission."

Bridgestone named supplier of the year

FOR THE SEVENTH consecutive year, the Bridgestone Group was awarded by General Motors (GM) as Supplier of the Year for 2001. In the awarding ceremonies held April 27 in Toronto, Canada, General Motors recognized the exceptional performance of Bridgestone in quality, service, technology and competitive pricing.

"The Bridgestone Group is an industry role model that through performance has set an example during the past for other companies to follow," said General Motors vice president Bo Andersson in an interview.

Meanwhile, Bridgestone/Firestone Americas Holding's chair, CEO and president John Lampe expressed his pride in the company's achievement. "Being recognized with this impressive award for the seventh consecutive time is a testament to the dedicated efforts of Bridgestone/Firestone employees throughout the world."

Bridgestone Corp. is the world's largest manufacturer of tires and other rubber products, with its brand tires (Bridgestone and Firestone) posting 79 percent of the company's sales worldwide. It distributes and markets its products in more than 150 nations. Bridgestone supplies Bridgestone and Firestone brand tires to General Motors plants across the globe.

Aside from tires and rubber products, the Bridgestone Group also manufactures and develops air springs, roofing materials, industrial fibers and textiles.

Now, more than ever, the Bridgestone Group hopes to achieve similar success in the future by continually providing its consumers with quality goods and services which its company is known for.

Tire, wheel makers back at Motorshow

By Jun Alano
Contributor

THE COUNTRY'S top tire and alloy wheel manufacturers, importers and dealers will gather once again at Motorshow International (Philippines) in October to give Filipino motorists a closer look at the newest products and innovations in tires and wheels amid reports of a surge in local vehicle sales.

Motorshow director general Marisa Nallana said the return to Motorshow of the tires and alloy manufacturers and importers is a positive sign that the automotive industry is indeed on its way to a much-awaited recovery, and participation in Motorshow would help these players position themselves to capture a wider market.

Beneficial to consumers

Nallana said that although the local tire market was previously dominated by a few big players, the government's liberalization thrust has allowed the entry of more high-quality and affordable products, which will benefit consumers in the long term.

Among the returning participants in Motorshow is Armstrong Enterprises Co. Inc., distributor of Toyo tires from Japan, as well as Lenso magnesium alloy wheels and other car accessories.

Also taking part this year is Madag International Trading Corp., importer and distributor of Indonesian-made Gajah Tungal tires that are already popular in the local market.

From Singapore, the choice at Motorshow would be Sumo Tires, imported and distributed by the company of the same name, while Tyremart, the distributor of Japan-made Dunlop tires, another industry byword, is likewise taking part at Motorshow.

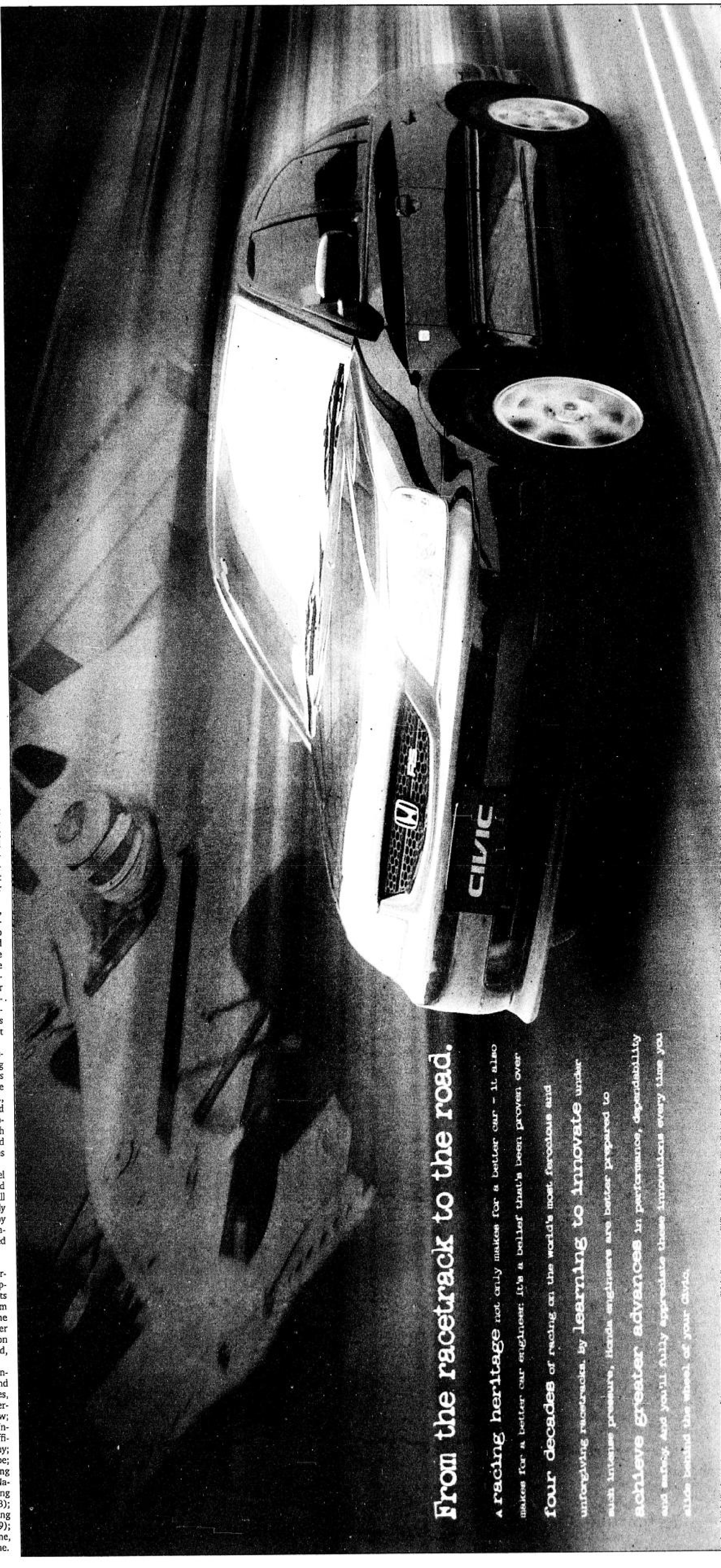
Another aggressive player during the past few years is Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc., manufacturer and distributor of Yokohama tires, both those manufactured in the Philippines and in Japan.

In the alloy wheel segment, Silverwind Alloy Castings Inc. will again display its locally made aluminum alloy wheels, but whose materials are imported from Dubai.

Sponsors

Motorshow International (Philippines) will stage its 14th season from Oct. 2 to 6 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

This year's sponsors are Oriental and Motolite Batteries, the official car batteries of Motorshow; Lexber Holidays International, the official leisure company; Reibet Auto Shoppe; Raven Broadcasting (Citylite 88.3); Nation Broadcasting Corp. (Joey@92.3); Quest Broadcasting Inc. (dwTM 89.9); and Rev Magazine, the official magazine.



From the racetrack to the road.

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HONDA

Coming auto attractions

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

SEPTEMBER and October are usually the months when car manufacturers in the United States unveil their new models. Over here, it's new-car season all year round as the new models trickle in some months or even a year or two after they were introduced in the United States, Japan or Europe.

The most recently launched new car was the 2.0-liter, 4WD 2002 Ford Escape compact SUV on the first day of this month. The Escape will be assembled in Ford's Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant and many if not most of the units will be exported. By the first quarter of 2003 at least, Ford Group Philippines Inc. is expected to come up with the totally redesigned 2003 Expedition, the second generation hippo on wheels.

But what promises to be even more interesting than the all-new Expedition was the revelation by Ford Group Philippines president Henry Co, in a one-on-one interview at the Escape launch, that a new, affordable "utility vehicle" will soon be introduced by Ford here. It will be neither an Asian utility vehicle nor a sport utility vehicle, Mr. Co said mysteriously. Could it be a pickup, Mr. Co?

Stiff competition

If Ford's new "utility vehicle" emerges looking like another compact SUV, it will encounter stiff competition from the X-Trail, Nissan's snazzy 2.0-liter DOHC gasoline-fed SUV. Like the German SUVs—the much bigger and infinitely costlier BMW X5 and Mercedes M-Class—the X-Trail's spare tire is not mounted on the rear door.

With the entries of the Ford Escape and the Nissan X-Trail, competition in the compact SUV market will get keener, what with the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4, Suzuki Grand Vitara and Subaru Forester already positioned here. But the Forester may enjoy a competitive edge since a totally redesigned 2003 model is coming in. Up front, the new Forester resembles the current model except for the grille and headlights, but when you look at the rear you'll see the big difference.

Fortunately, the coming automotive attractions are not limited to SUVs. Aside from the 2003 Subaru Forester, General Motors Automobiles Philippines will be launching the 2003 Opel Vectra. What's more, the 2003 Honda Accord should be making its appearance early next year, if Honda Cars Philippines Inc. runs true to its code of bringing new models promptly to the Philippine market.

The 2003 Accord's new shape is as radically different from the previous model as the 2002 Toyota Corolla Altis is from its predecessor. When the '03 Accord shows up, it will trigger new car wars chapter in the medium-sized passenger sedan segment as the entire industry watches to see how it fares, sales-wise, against the just-introduced all-new Toyota Camry and Nissan Cefiro. The scuttlebutt is that the new Camry has overtaken market leader Cefiro in sales, but this is vigorously denied by the Nissan folk. Will the entry of the new Accord complicate the picture further?

The BMW Group tops everyone else in terms of number of new models introduced, the latest being the P11-million BMW 7 Series Li and in the United States, the Z4 roadster. BMW Philippines Corp. president Mark Gilbert told the motoring press last July that over the next six years, the BMW Group will introduce 20 new models with the expansion of the product range to include the BMW 1 Series, the BMW 6 Series and the BMW X3, a smaller version of the X5 SUV.

Consolidated position

According to an article in Forbes Global magazine, the 6 Series and X3 will be rolled out next year and the subcompact 1 Series is coming up in 2004 to vie with the Mercedes A-class. BMW's objective in producing a large number of new cars is to consolidate its position as the biggest manufacturer of premium automobiles, says the Forbes article. BMW's profit margins are second only to Porsche, but while Porsche produces only 50,000 cars a year, in 2002 BMW will make one million and by 2005, 1.2 million cars worldwide. BMW makes 550,000 units of its 3 Series annually, more than any passenger car produced by Detroit. In fact, the BMW Group's pretax profits of $2.8 billion last year were higher than the combined pretax profits of General Motors and DaimlerChrysler in the same year.

How BMW can be so prolific and yet not cheapen the exclusivity of its brand name should make a fascinating story. But that has to wait for more space.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Shhh. Driver asleep.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

RPN AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

HOW do we treat dried "raindrop marks" on our vehicle's paint?

—Lito Maximo

Those raindrop marks you have on your paint could either be water spots or water stains. A water spot is a mineral deposit left behind on the surface of the paint. As rain water evaporates, anything that is not water—such as dissolved minerals and trace elements—will remain on the car. With the water gone, the remaining material will leave a spot that sits on top of the surface of the paint.

If these spots haven't been there for very long, they can be washed off quite easily with a regular car shampoo. If the spots prove to be stubborn, they can still be removed with some white or distilled vinegar on a soft cotton towel. If the spots are mild, you can dilute the vinegar 2:1 with water. For heavy spots, you can use pure vinegar. Either way, the vinegar shouldn't harm you or your car. Vinegar is a very mild acid which should dissolve the alkaline-based mineral deposits with ease.

Now, if the water spots are left on your car for more than a week or two, they may turn into stains that penetrate into the paint. So, even though you have removed the minerals causing the water spots, the spots remain as damage to your car's exterior. In these cases, it is necessary to polish the paint. There are a number of commercially available products that promise to remove water spots and even protect your car from them in the future. But whatever you do, do not use household detergents to clean up the spots or stains. These detergents are designed to cut through the grease of pots and pans, and they're bound to strip off the wax and luster of your car.

FORD Escape

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

Your perfect reason to drive around metro

Flooded and potholed streets notwithstanding

By Charles E. Buban

YOU probably have seen this latest Ford Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) in the hands of an eager driver. Not that he is reckless or anything, he could be just trying to get the feel of this agile yet powerful machine.

While most folk buy an SUV for heavy-duty service like off-road driving or towing chores, Ford thinks there is still room for a different type of SUV—one that not only does many of the everyday chores of other SUVs but also handles and accelerates like a sedan.

That more or less is the thought behind the debut of the Escape here in the Philippines, Ford Philippine's latest addition to its "No Boundaries" lineup of vehicles.

"The Escape will meet the needs of customers who are looking for a vehicle not just to take them to work and back during the week but also provide them with enough fun and agility for their weekend activities," said Ford Group Philippines president Henry Co.

Responsive feel

Powered by Zetec, a 4-cylinder in-line 2.0L DOHC 16-valve engine, the Escape blasts into the compact-SUV segment with nimble handling and a potent engine.

This responsive engine makes the Escape feel like as if it's always poised to respond to your right foot—acceleration is sedan quick and passing is effortless, even under load.

The Zetec pumps out a strong 130 horsepower and a maximum torque of 183 Nm (according to Ford, the Escape can haul up to 1,000 lb or a regular-size jet ski). Considering the power it has, the Escape registers a descent fuel consumption rating of 9.77 km/L (city) and 11.46 km/L (highway) for the XLS 4x2 variant while 9.34 km/L (city) and 10.62 km/L for the XLT 4x4 variant.

The Escape is an SUV you can look forward to driving even during extreme conditions or whenever you avoid using paved roads. Its unique Control Trac II 4WD System (available only in XLT variant) gives the driver the power to dictate when and how to engage in a 4-wheel drive. Switch on "4x4 On" and the Escape will split the torque between front and rear wheels. Switching on "4x4 Auto," on the other hand, lets the Escape's system to automatically proportion more torque to the rear wheels whenever the front wheels begin to slip.

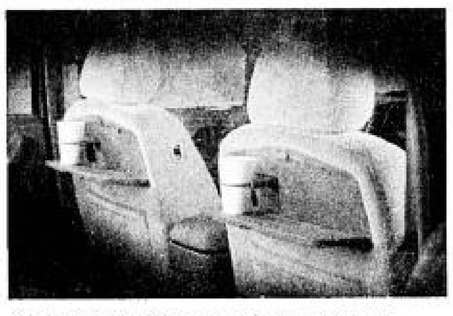
With "4x4 Auto" the Escape requires no intervention from the driver as to when to engage, thus, eliminating the need for a gear shift lever.

Balanced design

Ford designers worked to achieve in the Escape a balance between the SUV's image of confidence, ruggedness and versatility and an image of agility and fun.

At first glance, the Escape looks like a scaled version of the Explorer. The Escape's forward-poised stance, large wheel lips, wide body cladding and an integrated bumper guard give a functional look.

THE ESCAPE is adorned with a utilitarian yet functional instrument panel.



INCLUDED in the second-row seats are amenities like retractable trays for cups and other food items.

Being wider than other compact SUVs gives the Escape a look that is both aggressive and well planted. Short front and rear overhangs add more to the sports appeal. The Escape's bold and aggressive look carries the same features of its bigger siblings like the Ford Explorer and Expedition.

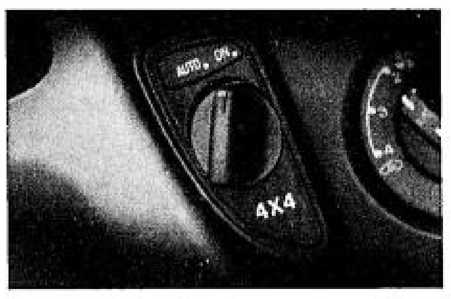
Being able to see the leading edge of the hood from the driver's seat makes the Escape easier to maneuver in tight places, whether you're deep in the woods or (more likely) in your house's tight garage.

Accessories from Ford Outfitters include a snap-in pet barrier and a system to haul two mountain bikes in the cargo area. Bike racks can also be mounted on the roof; the standard roof rack with crossbars holds up to 45 kilos.

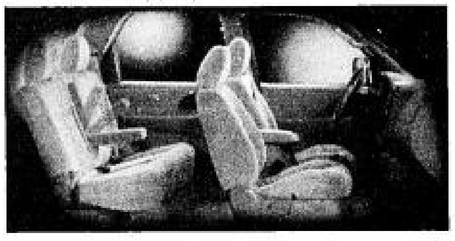
More space

Despite the Escape's compact exterior dimensions, the interior is one of the roomiest you'll find. Ford claims that the Escape is among the most spacious of the compact SUVs (rated at 3.79 cubic meters of total interior volume).

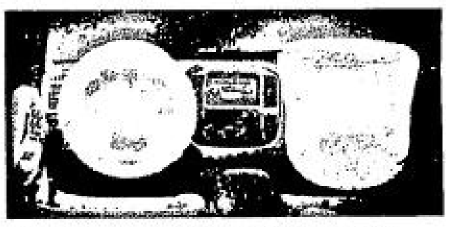
With the split 60/40 rear seats folded up to accommodate up to five passengers it, provides .93 cubic meter of ample legroom. The rear cargo area offers 1.79 cubic meters of cargo space with the rear seats folded down, making it just right to cram all those big items you need to bring along.



WITH THE CONTROL Trac II 4WD system, the driver only needs to turn this knob to select on the appropriate 4x4 mode.



AT 60/40 ratio, the Escape is spacious enough to comfortably seat five passengers.



THE ESCAPE is equipped with dual SRS airbags standard to both the XLT and SLS variants.

Front-seat roominess is similar to that of the Explorer. White-faced instruments, in vogue these days, are in a straightforward instrument panel. The audio system, ventilation and air-conditioning controls in the center stack are angled slightly toward the driver to ease reach while driving. Ford engineers say they tested the placement of the controls by using blindfolded occupants.

The Escape XLT comes standard with an AM/FM/CD player that puts a six-CD changer in the head unit. That means you can stuff six discs into the dash and swap them in and out as you drive, which means no stopping to load a trunk-mounted changer.

In frontal crash tests conducted by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Escape performed admirably well—earning five stars (out of five) for the driver and for the front passenger. It has the typical driver and passenger airbags up front. Pretensioners in the front belts cinch the belts tight within a fraction of a second of impact, and shoulder belt height adjustments make the wearer feel comfortable.

The top-line Escape XLT 4x4 with automatic transmission comes well equipped at P1.310 million while the XLS with manual transmission starts at P1.07 million.

The right, 'lite' way to care for your car

EVER experienced having a car break down on you? If yes, you will surely agree with other car owners who were in the same boat that you don't want to go through it again—being stranded in a highway, calling for a tow truck, waiting for the car to be fixed and finally paying the huge bill.

Well, the good news is you can avoid such an episode by simply taking better care of your car. Below are some tips from Citibank credit cards.

- Stick to your car's maintenance schedule and make sure that only qualified mechanics do the required inspections and repairs. For your peace of mind, take your car to the manufacturer's service center. That way, you are assured that your car gets the best service possible and that only authentic parts are used.
- Purchase car accessories only from reputable auto shops because by doing so, you are guaranteed of getting genuine products that often come with a reliable warranty.
- Avoid driving your car on potholes or on rough roads as doing so can eventually damage your vehicle's suspension system. This can also lead to the advanced deterioration of your car's tires, not to mention a bumpy ride.
- Give your car that spanking new look all the time by taking it to a car wash center. Not only will your car's exterior be cleaned but also its engine, underside—practically every nook and cranny of your car.

SERVICE CENTER
PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN

And to help you keep your car in best condition, Citibank credit cards teamed up with Nissan cars to allow its cardholders to avail of the PayLite Installment Plan for Nissan after-sales products and services.

By visiting various Nissan service centers and using PayLite for a minimum transaction of P3,000, Nissan car owners can settle their service bills in low installments of 3-, 6-, 9-, 12-, 18- and 24-month terms. As an added perk, selected Nissan services can be availed at 0 percent interest for a three-month term. This promotion runs until Dec. 31, 2002.

Offering increased financial flexibility, PayLite is a unique privilege available to all cardholders of Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell-Citibank Silver and Gold MasterCard, Citibank-Cathay Pacific Visa and Citibank Clear MasterCard.

When wind becomes howl

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

AGAIN it happened.

Without regard for the feelings of the people, our leaders went on to stage a party in broad daylight.

I refer to the occasion on Tuesday installing Gen. Benjamin Defensor as the new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Did we not suffer while they partied at Camp Aguinaldo?

* * *

Nothing wrong with holding a party to celebrate the promotion of a soldier.

What was wrong was, it was held joyously while the people were sadly subjected to untold inconveniences due to the traffic jam caused by the party.

Again, it was proven that the interest of this nation's leaders is paramount and that of the people's welfare amounts to nothing most of the time.

* * *

Where was Bayani Fernando, the so-called hero of Marikina, when people were caught unawares by that monstrous jam in Edsa, caused by the closure of Aguinaldo's "tactical" gates?

He was nowhere in sight when it was his sworn duty to keep traffic in order on the streets of the metropolis 24 hours a day.

Was he in the Defensor party, too?

* * *

If they had a heart (never mind the head), as one victim of the traffic jam said, they should have temporarily allowed a left-turn on Edsa, going to Santolan. That could have eased even a little the traffic tension that built up at roads surrounding Camp Aguinaldo. Man, the jams extended up to Libis in Quezon City.

In this country, the leaders do their thing at will. To them, the people to whom they are sworn to serve are but playthings.

They use the people when convenience dictates, particularly during elections. In normal times, though, the people become nonentities.

* * *

Indeed bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

The officials that we chose in the last election are supposed to be our slaves. For, aren't the people the true rulers of a republic, be it a strong republic or not?

The wind listens but only sometimes.

Alas, every Malacañang occupant, historically, rarely listens at all. Only when the wind becomes a howl that the tenant by the Pasig River starts to heed.

Oftentimes, if not most of the time, it's too late.

* * *

Toyota emerged No. 1 anew in the month of August. It was tops in automotive sales—passenger cars, commercial vehicles and overall sales. With its total of 2,139 units sold last August, Toyota recorded a 3 percent increase from the same month last year.

Toyota also captured 27 percent of the market last month. Sales of Toyota for the year have already reached 15,993 units, which reflects a 29 percent increase from 2001 levels.

Camry took the lead in the medium-luxury class with 108 units sold, augmenting passenger car sales to 800 last month.

As usual, the Altis was the best-selling sedan with 368 units.

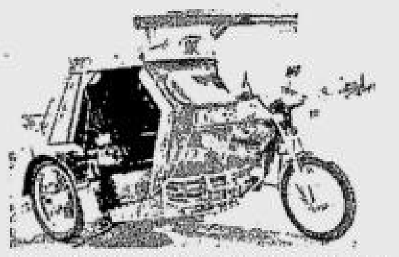
Toyota has already sold a total of 5,833 passenger cars as of August this year.

* * *

Revo was tops again in the AUV with 952 units sold even as Toyota totaled 1,339 in the commercial vehicle category.

The same dominance is also reflected in the commercial vehicle category with Toyota leading the way in August with sales of 1,339 units led by the country's best-selling vehicle, the Revo with 952 units. Revo has survived the onslaught of new AUV models. It remains the perennial favorite with an industry-leading sales total of 7,652 units, which account for 14 percent of the total industry sales.

Toyota has credited its consistent success to its usual aggressive sales promotion during the year.



NEW BREED OF MOTORCYCLE
Kymco is launching this new breed of motorcycle specially built for tricycles. The 150 Kargador is powered by a 4-stroke, air-cooled, overhead valve engine that is capable of achieving 13.5 horsepower. With an engine displacement of 149.57 cc, it runs 55 km per liter of gasoline. Kymco installed improvements like an electric starter, angular swing arm (no longer tubular), stiffened springs and double rear suspension for longer motorcycle lifespan.

Additive saves fuel by 30%

HERE'S good news for car enthusiasts and other motorists during these times of rising fuel and maintenance costs: An engine treatment formula from the United States that is more potent than the other available leading brands in the market is now giving local motorists a real value for their money.

Dubbed as "the friction eliminator," the Uniq Engine Treatment is a preventive engine maintenance and treatment formula that is mixed as an additive to a newly changed oil.

Uniq Engine Treatment can ensure fuel savings up to 30 percent; increases engine power and performance up to 30 percent; reduces engine wear by as much as 400 percent; and reduces engine friction by as much as 800 percent.

It also reduces the car's operating temperature by as much as 40 percent; controls noxious emissions by as much as 20 percent; improves oil viscosity by as much as 60 percent; and ensures engine maintenance savings by as much as 400 percent.

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LOLITA REDUBLO LARAYA

August 7, 1915 - September 10, 2002

Peacefully joined her husband
Jose Marquez Laraya, Sr. (†)
in our Lord's loving embrace at the age of 87.

She is survived by her children and their spouses: **Junnie** and **Tita**, **Joeben** and **Babie**, **Luddie** and **Ramon Cuasay**, **Joelou** and **Papaar**, **Lourna**, **Joepet** and **Evs**, and her grandchildren and their spouses: **Joevic** and **Maria Cristina**, **Johnali**, **Angel** and **Randolph Zuñiga**, **Jennifer Laraya**; **Fides Marie** and **Ed Carlos**, **Sonny & Maricel**, **Maricar** and **Dennis Beriña**, **Marly** and **Marla Laraya**; **R. Peter** and **Mandy**, **Catherine Anne**, **Margaret Rose** and **Larry Cardon**, **Joseph Paul** and **Aileen Cuasay**; **Ari**, **Nadine** and **Ferdows Laraya**; **Therese Joy Laraya**; **Ghen Marie** and **Jody Laraya**, and her great grandchildren: **Francis**, **Kevin** and **Carina Carlos**; **Timmy** and **Erica Laraya**; **Micah**, **Miko** and **Miggi Beriña**; **Jose Maria Zuñiga**; **Erigo Arboleda**; **Jessica Rose**, **Alexander Ramon** and **Luke Andrew Cardon**, and siblings/relatives **Abas**, **de Jesus**, **Redublo** and **Martinez** families of Batangas City; **Laraya**, **Gonzalez** and **Rodelas** families of San Jose, Batangas; **Laraya** family of Tacloban, and niece, **Corazon Cañiza** of Taal, Batangas.

The family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan from September 11 to 14, 2002.

Interment will be on September 14, 2002 after the 9:15 AM Memorial Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

BASF Philippines, Inc.

is one in prayers with the family of

RUEL GLEMAO SULLANO

He is survived by his mother: Nelita;
brothers and sisters Arnel, Manuel and Nicky,
Norita, Omar and Donna with son Codey,
Neriza and Arvin with son Duge Nervin; and fiancée Maria Luisa.

His remains lie in state at Roseville Chapel, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Interment will be on Friday, September 13, 2002
at Forlins Memorial Park, Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

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2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have fought the good fight.*
I have finished the course, I have kept the faith"

JUANITA "TINA" ATIENZA CHUA

of Cotabato City
September 26, 1941 - September 8, 2002

Her loving husband ***Yu Beng*** *and her children* ***Albert, Carol, Amy*** *and* ***Claire****; sons-in-law* ***Ricky Yu*** *and grandson* ***Charles Anthony****, together with*

Her friends and relatives request every one to pray for her eternal journey with our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Minrico Compound, Jose Lim Sr. Street, Cotabato City.

Memorial service will be held on Saturday, 14 September 2002 at 7:30 AM Queen of Peace Chapel, S.K. Pendatun Street. Interment will follow at the Chinese Cemetery, Cotabato City.

Judge AUGUSTO G. SANTAMARIA

U.P. Law 1938
Noveleta, Cavite

Peacefully joined his wife ***Dra. Clara Manalo****,*
son ***Augusto "Bombi", Jr.****, and daughter-in-law*
Yolanda Monteseña *in our Lord's loving embrace*
on September 8, 2002 at the age of 91.

He is survived by his children and grandchildren: **Claro Jordan-Jordan**, **Claro John Paul**, **Dindo**, and **JR**, **Nestor "Jojit"-Paul**, and **Marinela**, and **Venus**; and brothers **Celedonio** and **Ben.**

His body lies in state at the Ancestral Home in Noveleta, Cavite.

Burial will be on Sunday, September 15, 2002 after the Holy Mass (3:00 p.m.) at the Holy Cross Parish Church in Noveleta.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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ENGR. REUBEN A. VILLAFRIA, SR.

May 22, 1929 - September 10, 2002

His wife **Teresa**; children **Reuben Jr. & Jocelyn**, **Myriam**, **Myrna & Bernardo**, **Norman & Emy**; sisters **Lydia**, **Rebecca** and **Ruth** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapel in Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 15, 2002, 9:00 AM at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

DELIA ELBO BROQUEZA

(November 9, 1923 - September 11, 2002)

of Girl Scout of the Philippines

Who passed away
on September 11, 2002.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel-Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on September 14, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

ERRATUM

In the Obituary Ad of the late

GLORIA CAMPOS BENIGNO

published in this paper, September 11, 2002. Interment will be tomorrow, September 13, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City. Funeral Mass at 10:00 AM will be at Ateneo Chapel, Rockwell Plaza, Makati City instead of Manila Memorial Chapel as published.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

FELIX F. MABANTA

01 December 1923 – 11 September 2002

His loving wife ***Linda Palanca***, children ***Roger*** & ***Menchie***, ***Fr. Frankie***, ***Lito*** & ***Apple Pie***, and ***Mary Jo*** & ***Ramon Garcia***; grandchildren, ***Bea***, ***Franco***, ***Fernan***, ***Nicola***, ***Marco***, ***Janina***, ***Jam***, ***Jessica***, ***Joy***, ***Ciara***, ***Javie***, ***Joaquin*** & ***Angelo***; his brothers and sisters, ***Tito***, ***Romy***, ***Pilaring*** (†), ***Peping*** and ***Nenita***; in-laws, nieces and nephews request prayers that his soul may rest peacefully in the benevolent Grace of the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Santa Maria della Strada Parish, La Vista Subdivision, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 15 September 2002 immediately following the 1:30 p.m. Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the ***Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc.*** *for the education and formation of priests, will be appreciated.*

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF TAX APPEALS
4th Floor Hizon Building, 29 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The *Court of Tax Appeals (CTA)* invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

BID PROJECT (B.P.) No.	EQUIPMENT	SPECIFICATIONS	QUANTITY	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	MINIMUM REQUIRED BID SECURITY
02-1	Generator Set	265 KVA, 220 – 440 Volts, 60 Hertz USA/UK/Japan made soundproof/weatherproof	One (1) set	P2,000,000.00	P50,000.00
02-2	Airconditioning Units (Package Type)	Split Package Type, Floor/Ceiling Mounted FCU with Matching ACCU 3.0 HP 2.0 HP 1.5 HP	 Two (2) Four (4) Eleven (11)	1,130,000.00	28,250.00
	Airconditioning Units(Package Type)	With master and temperature control, 2HP	Five (5)	150,000.00	3,750.00
02-3	Exhaust Fans	Ceiling Mounted Cassette Type, 24 CDE	Twenty-three (23)	138,000.00	3,450.00

Interested suppliers must submit to the CTA Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretary, **Ms. Elsie T. Forteza**, at the Administrative Division, 4th Floor, Hizon Bldg., 29 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, the following documents, namely: Letter of Intent, clear photocopies of DTI or SEC Registration, updated Mayor's Permit/Municipal License, Taxpayer's Identification Number, notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, VAT Registration, ITR duly stamped by the BIR and Audited Financial Report stamped received by the BIR for the two (2) recent years. Date of submission of the above requirements is on ***September 20, 2002 from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.*** Bring originals for authentication of the photocopied documents.

Instructions to Bidders and other Bid documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretary upon submission of the above-mentioned documents and after payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) per Bid Project.

A **Pre-bid conference** will be held at the *CTA Courtroom* on **September 23, 2002** at 1:00 P.M., B.P. No. 02-1; on **September 24, 2002** at 1:00 P.M., B.P. No. 02-2; **September 25, 2002** at 1:00 P.M., B.P. No. 02-3.

Submission of Bid documents to the Office of the BAC Secretary shall be from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. on **October 8, 2002** for B.P. No. 02-1; **October 9, 2002** for B.P. No. 02-2; **October 10, 2002** for B.P. No. 02-3.

Opening of bids will be done in the presence of bidders' representatives at the *CTA Courtroom* at 1:30 P.M. on the same dates of submission of bids for each project.

The CTA BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids and neither guarantees that award will be made.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive defects or informalities therein, and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous/beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) ELVESSA P. APOLINARIO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 12 & 19, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telefax 813-4692; Website www.pdic.gov.ph, Email bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers of high speed printers and contractors and providers of preventive and remedial maintenance to bid for the following:

	Qty
I. HIGH SPEED PRINTERS	10
Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	3,600,000.00

II. PREVENTIVE AND REMEDIAL MAINTENANCE	
A. Without Supplier's Warranty	
1. Pentium desktop computers	269
2. File servers	9
3. Printers	
Dot matrix	157
High speed	4
Inkjet /deskjet	10
Laser	8
Line printers	3
4. UPS	183
5. Notebook computers (on-call)	63
B. With Supplier's Warranty (outer surface cleaning only)	
1. Pentium desktop computers	100
2. File servers	7
3. Printers	
Inkjet /deskjet	1
Laser	19
4. Laptops/notebooks (on-call)	43
Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	538,100.00

The Request for Proposal shall be made available to interested bidders starting September 6-13, 2002, 8:00am to 5:00pm at the 3rd Floor, Information Technology Department, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Jackie Jose or Ms. Maricel Flores. The prebid conference shall be held at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City on September 16, 2002 at 10:30 am to clarify/explain any provision stipulated in the Request for Proposal.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards. Bidders whose Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on the net working capital is less than the approved budget or PhP538,100 shall be disqualified. NFCC shall be computed based on the following formula:

NFCC = [(current assets – current liabilities) x 10] – value of all outstanding or on-going contracts and contracts awarded yet to be started

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) CATHERINE F. BAMBA
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 5 & 12, 2002)

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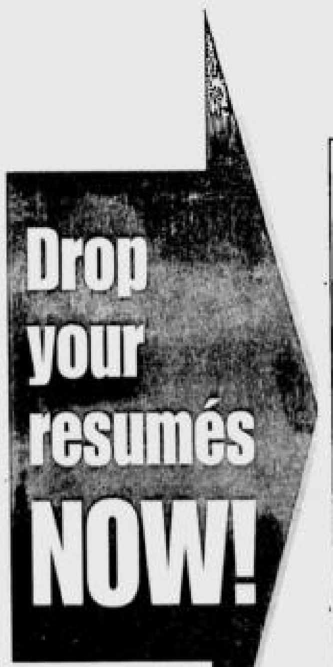

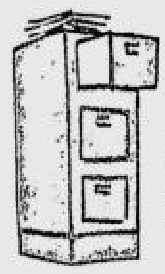

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STILL SLUGGISH

Hot money inflows up slightly in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

THERE was a slight inflow in portfolio investments last month, as foreign funds trickled back to the local fixed-income market to take advantage of rising interest rates.

Documents released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that some $91.8 million worth of "hot money" were invested in the country in August compared with $81.8 million that went out, representing a net inflow of $10 million.

These figures were better than the $73.2 million worth of inflows and $81.3 million worth of outflows recorded in July but were off the year-earlier figures of $95 million and $93.6 million.

BUENAVENTURA

Over the eight-month period to August, the level of portfolio investments that went into the Philippines, minus the outflows, reached $195.77 million, 740 percent more than a year earlier's $23.3 million.

Sources said, however, that the hot money inflow was still sluggish, as investors remained wary of the country's rising budget deficit and a general uncertainty in placing funds in emerging economies.

Data submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that the level of inbound funds from January to August rose 5.67 percent to a little over $1 billion from $949.4 million a year earlier.

The hot money that went out during the same period fell 12.79 percent to $807.6 million from $926.1 million in the first eight months of 2001.

Analysts blamed the government's widening deficit as a big factor triggering widespread uncertainties among portfolio and direct foreign investors.

The deficit grew to P133 billion in July, exceeding the year-round target of P130 billion.

Analysts expect the deficit to widen to as much as P180 billion by year's end.

With the increasing budget gap, the local fixed-income market has started to drive domestic interest rates higher, offering better yields to short-term investors.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier pointed to a "general confusion of global investors" as to where they would place their funds following a string of corporate scandals in the United States.

Still, the central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds to flow in the coming months, alongside an increase in foreign direct investments, as the economy continued to perform well.

The economy grew 4.5 percent in the second quarter, while inflation remained low, even as it rose to 2.9 percent in August from a 30-month low of 2.6 percent in July. Exports had also been growing steadily.

The central bank also credited the encouraging inflow of portfolio funds for helping boost the country's balance-of-payments, an economic indicator based on movements in trade, investments and borrowings.

This year, portfolio investments may not be as erratic as in previous years, according to the central bank, even as the nature of hot money is normally fleeting and largely sentiment-driven.

Foreign portfolio funds are normally invested in the stock market, government securities, mutual funds and insurance.

Last year, the country recorded a net portfolio inflow of $68.7 million, representing a sharp turnaround from a net outflow of $149 million in 2000.

The central bank data came from Citibank NA, Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank AG, HSBC Corp. and ING Barings. These banks account for 95 percent of total foreign fund flow.

Deutsche Bank probes misrepresentation incident

By Elena R. Torrijos

DEUTSCHE Bank AG has started an investigation into false statements made by some of its own officials to IFR Asia, a regional finance publication.

The case stemmed from a report that came out in IFR Asia more than a week ago that Deutsche Bank had completed a new $500-million Philippine borrowing.

Certain officials of Deutsche Bank were said to have attempted to claim credit in Thomson Financial's league tables when they told IFR Asia that the $500 million represented a new Philippine debt deal of the bank when it actually was part of the $1-billion sum that the government borrowed on behalf of the National Power Corp. in March this year.

In an interview yesterday, Deutsche Bank spokesperson Michael West said Deutsche Bank issued separate apologies to IFR Asia and the Philippine government on Friday.

One mid-level employee in the bank's Hong Kong office was suspended because of the incident, West added.

Senior executives of Deutsche Bank will be here on Sept. 16 for a Philippine investors conference.

West said an update on the investigation would be provided to the Philippine government by that time.

"The Philippine government's relationship is important, that is why an investigation is being undertaken, and we will continue to have a dialogue with the government on the outcome," he said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, himself a top Deutsche Bank executive prior to joining the government early last year, said that should the foreign bank's explanation of the incident is unsatisfactory, "it will be considered in any decision" concerning proposals from the financial institution on government deals going forward.

Market sources said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza was "livid," while other finance officials were upset over the issue.

The incident would have had an adverse impact on the government's borrowings because, had it not been corrected, it would have falsely relayed the impression that the Philippine government had $500 million more in debts than it actually had.

Market participants were also shocked by the nature of the misrepresentation.

Camacho said he was "disappointed" with Deutsche Bank, but he was also thankful that there was no market distortion because the government was able to clarify the issue.

According to IFR Asia, as only new deals are eligible for credit in Thomson Financial league tables, Deutsche Bank dropped from first to second place in its bond table of top 10 bookrunners for Asia G3 currency including Australia, and from fifth to sixth place for the table excluding Australia.

High rankings in Thomson Financial's league tables provide prestige and valuable bragging rights to the financial institutions involved.

PSALM to tap Lehman Bros. in $500-M bond float in Oct.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) had also tapped investment house Lehman Brothers to arrange a $500-million bond float scheduled in October.

The amount is meant to cover part of the National Power Corp.'s funding needs for this year totaling about $1.8 billion.

"Lehman Brothers was invited and is lead arranger—alongside Salomon Smith Barney—of the bond float," Perez said in an interview.

Last month, PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso announced that PSALM would embark on an international roadshow in mid-October for the flotation of bonds totaling $750 million.

Del Fonso said Salomon Smith Barney was lead arranger of and global coordinator for the $500-million bond, but he did not mention Lehman Brothers.

He also said a yen-denominated issue equivalent to $250 million would also be floated.

Perez added without elaborating: "We are considering a fallback option of bridge financing for the $750 million, if the market is not favorable."

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Nasipit declared insolvent

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court has declared Nasipit Lumber Co. Inc., one of the country's oldest logging and lumber processing firms, insolvent and ready for liquidation.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Nasipit said the Manila RTC had appointed a liquidator to handle its assets and liabilities.

A company is considered insolvent if it does not have enough assets to offset its liabilities.

Nasipit has total liabilities of close to P1 billion while assets stood at only P758 million.

The trading of Nasipit shares had been suspended at the stock exchange since it applied for insolvency on Feb. 26 and would now be de-listed following the court-assisted liquidation.

Serious cash flow problems arising from the difficult business conditions have caused Nasipit to cease operation for the past six years. It has been a dormant stock at the PSE since 1998.

Established in 1946, Nasipit used to produce a complete line of finished and semi-finished home building components like veneer and plywood. Its subsidiary, Philippine Wallboard Corp., manufactured low-cost "lawanit" products.

Nasipit has a forest concession covering 98,000 hectares in Butuan City and several municipalities, including plant site host Nasipit, in Agusan del Norte.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Saints in the kitchen, or how Sandok became a saint

WELCOME to the tales and adventures of Saint Sandok and the Joyful Cook. They tell of savors and surprises as two friends travel the road to good food, good health and, most importantly, a good disposition.

The quest for sustenance is as ancient as life itself. And that is part of the story.

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta.Maria

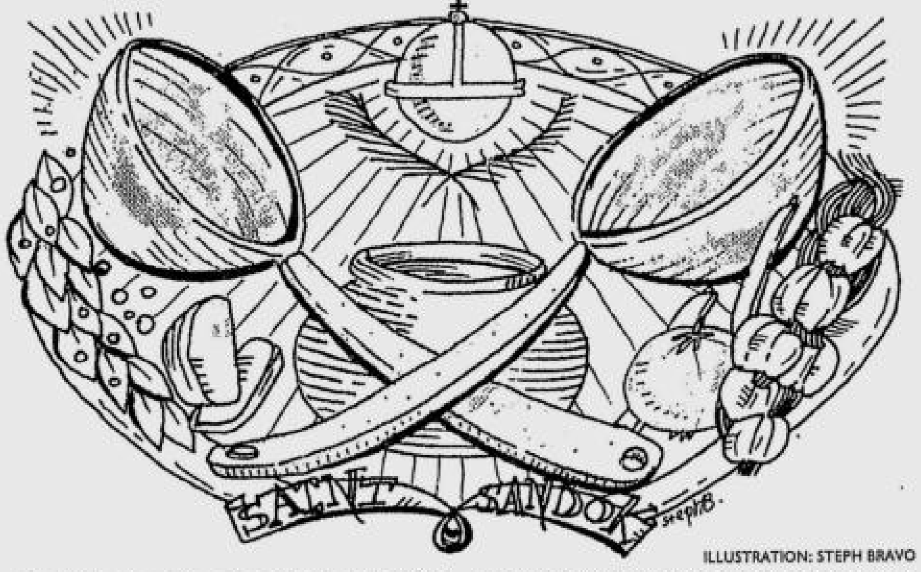

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

But first, how Sandok became a saint.

Martha and Sandok were friends. They dwelt together on the second floor of a *bahay na bato* in a coastal town of Cavite. Martha stood statuesque in her mistress' private chapel, the extension of a bedroom. Only Martha's serene and lovely face peeked through the hooded, lemon yellow flannel robe that was her everyday wear.

Symbol

Martha looked forward to hot-time when once a year, on Eastertide, she was clothed in her satin and velvet finery, and adorned with dangling real diamond earrings and an elaborate golden aureole from the Spanish colonial times. The most important part of her ensemble was a *walis tingting* specially made to fit in her hand.

The Roman Catholic Church had declared her Patroness of Cooks and Servants. Jesus, who appreciated her home-making talents in Bethany, raised her brother Lazarus from the grave. Mary Magdalene was her sister. In the Philippines, Sta. Martha's following included housekeepers who found as their symbol the common broom made of stiff palm midribs, the *walis tingting*.

Sandok felt Martha should carry him instead. Martha agreed. After all, a *sandok*, the common, ladle-like cooking spoon made by attaching a bamboo handle to a coconut shell, is a reminder that without food homo sapiens cannot survive.

Basic implement

In olden times, kitchens always had a clay pot and a *sandok* used solely for cooking rice. In Pangasinan and Ilocos, *aklo* is for rice. When used for cooking anything else, such as fish or vegetables, the implement becomes a *balaok*. In a masterful stroke of innovation, some carvers made the *aklo* straight and the *balaok*, curved.

Philippine culture invented other spoon-like tools with special shapes to suit specific functions for cooking or table use. *Pakul*, for instance, is generic for ladle. The northern *karuas* with a woven bamboo "cup" at the end is for extracting sliced, sweet potato or *kaskaron* balls from boiling sugar when they are cooked.

Datu Humabon of the 16th century called the spoon *gandan*. *Suro* is ancient Tagalog for spoon. In Leyte and Samar, *siklot* is a wooden spoon. And in archaic Ilocano, *palaspas* signified a spoon made from palm leaves.

Spoons for cooking and eating were blessed in pre-Christian communities. Native gods, mythological heroes, a father carrying his child on his shoulders, even a man with a corpse on his head decorate spoons in the Cordillera. A pair of male and female figures are said to bestow virility on the spoon's user. Mountain folk believed implements remind spirits of sacrifices made to them and, in turn, the deities will keep poison away.

Higher rating

It was but fitting that a cook could become a holy patron. The Christian Church gave the job higher rating than one popular Philippine creation myth. According to ancestors, the first man and woman were born fully grown inside a bamboo tube pecked open by a vulture. The couple was prolific. When overpopulation threatened, the vulture swept down to frighten everyone. Inhabitants who hid in a cave became royalty; the majority scampered from the chamber and became commoners, while those who hid in the kitchen were doomed to remain slaves, chained to the housekeeping chores of their masters.

Martha found it so amusing that Christians found their diversion in stories about saints. Some of the tales were outrageous. Others, scandalous. But, of course, everyone knew they were just fiction and indicated a sincere, sometimes childlike, intimacy with one's patron saints.

The Bible, however, does provide many facts about farming, gardening and feeding. King Solomon was an acclaimed botanist. St. Paul appealed for cultural tolerance in Romans 14:2-3: "For one believeth that he may eat all things; another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despite him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him."

Church and cuisine

Church history and lore record much about cuisine and housekeeping. St. Anne—the mother of Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus—was selected as the patron of wives. She, like many saints, is called in the Philippines by her Spanish name, Sta. Ana. Even after English came in with American colonial rule, the saints kept their Spanish names. Universidad de Santo Tomas (the oldest university in Asia), for instance, is University of Santo Tomas and was never renamed Saint Thomas University.

There are even riddles about saints.

"Who is the tallest saint?" Santol.

"Who is the saint of drinkers?" San Miguel.

Finally, Filipinos came full circle, back to their roots with the best conundrum of them all—or at least as far as Martha was concerned:

"Who is the saint of the kitchen?" Sandok!

Martha shared what she had heard with Sandok. "Finally, your importance in the Filipino home has been acknowledged. By popular acclaim, you are now a saint," she said. Noticing that Sandok immediately emitted the golden glow of a spirit in touch with the cosmic universe, she thought it better to keep mum about official Vatican procedure for sainthood. Saint Sandok, after all, was a secret between the two of them. It stuck as Martha's pet-name for her favorite friend.

Every other Thursday in this section, Felice Sta. Maria lives up to her name with 'The Joyful Cook' column. For more on Lifestyle's new Taste columnist, turn to p.C2

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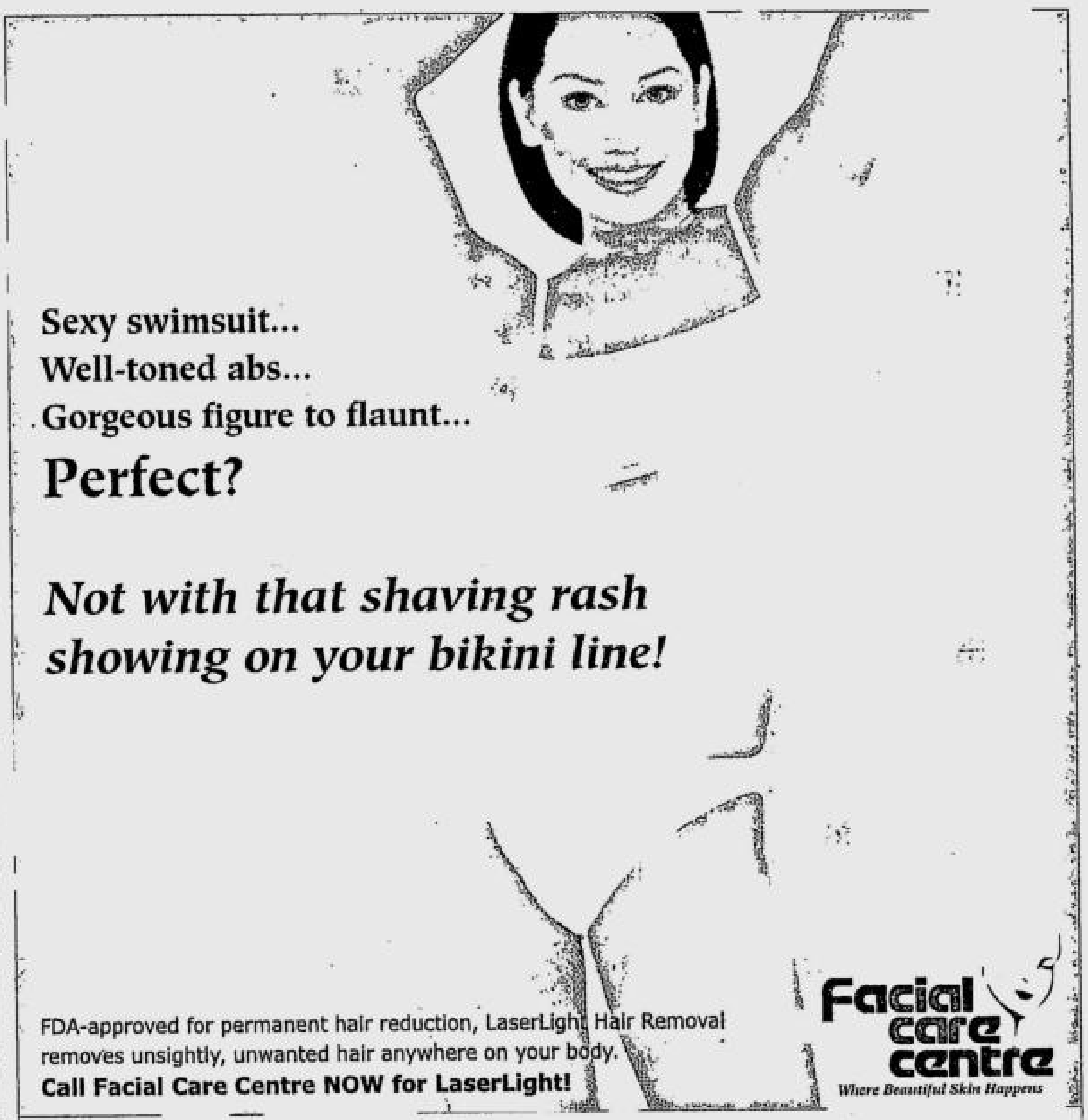

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A woman's felicitous forays into food lore

By Rowena C. Burgos

PEOPLE who write about cuisine generally come from a tradition of culinary refinement. They have been born and bred in evocative locations where their mothers and grandmothers cultivated an art as delicate as it is succulent.

Felice Prudente Sta. Maria is one of these people whose families love to eat and set a good table. "I had the good fortune of exposure to different types of food. My father was from a coastal fishing town so I had the advantage of learning what real native food is like."

One of Felice's grandaunts was known in Cavite for her culinary expertise. During fiestas, Felice would hang around the kitchen and watch her grandaunt at spirited labor. Such feasts would always unite their family in the leisurely ceremony of the meal.

Exposed to myriad ways of cooking and eating since she was a child, Felice was "fascinated with the provincial kitchen, which is very different from a city kitchen."

At the age of 7, she was already experimenting with brownies and sandwiches and frying eggs. So when she married Andres Sta. Maria, she was more than qualified to do the marketing and cooking every day. "My husband grew up with a mother who stayed at home and cooked. So I felt it an obligation to do the cooking myself." At her beloved kitchen table, she would cultivate friendships and kinship over long, convivial lunches or dinners. She still does.

For Felice, food is something more than mere repast. It is the summation of a time, of a place, of sunshine and rain, of happiness and strife, of our little histories. "Menus, ingredients and the processes of making food can tell a lot about people, their character and values," she notes. "We value the time a person puts into preparing something. We value time well used. We value affection that comes with time. All of this you can get out of food as well as other aspects of culture."

FELICE Prudente Sta. Maria

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

So, little by little, she worked up a list of everything that, according to her own experience and knowledge accumulated from different cultures, enhances the passionate life, or just life in general. As is only natural, food headed the list.

Before long, she was writing about food.

Intimate relationship

Felice describes her relationship with food as "very intimate." Even as a student of Speech and Drama at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, QC, she was more interested in archival work. Her research became increasingly scholarly. Her rooms are filled with ancient cookery books, papers and utensils.

Since 1973, Felice's writings have been appearing in books, Philippine and foreign popular publications and academic journals. Besides food writing, she is known for her essays on socio-political events, art and aesthetics, sociology, humanities, cultural environment development and values regeneration.

Her stories about Philippine food and tourist destinations, including their food culture, were also published in newspaper and magazine columns. Some of her food writings also found their way into books: "The Turn-of-the-Century Kitchen" in "The Culinary Culture of the Philippines," edited by Gilda Cordero-Fernando; historical and tourism annotations for the book "Savor the Philippines: The International Wine and Food Society's 3rd Asia-Pacific Zone Festival of Gastronomy" (1997); "Dining in the Philippines," "History of Philippine Cuisine," "Dining in Metro Manila," "Eating in Metro Manila's Environs" and "Out-of-Town Culinary Adventures" in "Tasting the Philippines: A Guide to Good Food & Fine Entertainment" (1993).

In September last year, Felice became the founding chair and president of The Manila Ladies Branch of the London-based International Wine & Food Society, which was established in 1933. The branch was established in September 2001.

Her book, "A Cultural Worker's First Manual: Essays in Appreciating the Everyday" (Anvil 2001), was recently named Best Book (Reference Category) by the Manila Critics Circle Award.

On Sept. 19, Felice will be one of the judges in the first Chefs on Parade national food writing contest ***(see related story on p. E1)***.

Beginning today, in the Lifestyle column "The Joyful Cook," Felice Sta. Maria will be giving readers a refreshing taste of lore, myth and history of food, something which Felice has been doing, having been inspired by the late food author Elizabeth David. "It will deal a lot with Philippine food history, in the hope that readers will learn the importance of food culture," she says of her column, "but it will also be about the sentiments of enjoying food and preparing it."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Grandparents' Day, Pampango style

CABALEN, the eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want Filipino buffet restaurant, celebrates Grandparents' Month this September.

The all-day, all-night continuous buffet spread of Cabalen is only P220 for adults and P95 for kids below 4 ft (plus VAT), which makes Cabalen the family celebrations' ideal choice.

For Grandparents' Day, Cabalen specials include Lechon de Leche, Cabalen Morcon and Panga ng Tuna. Aside from the old-time favorites, Cabalen features Gatang Alimasag, Bulalo with Mais, Kare-Kare and Ensaladang Pako. Desserts include Ube Halaya, Tibok-tibok, Leche Flan and Halo-halo.

Cabalen Restaurants are located at Glorietta in Ayala Center; Katipunan Avenue, QC; West Avenue, QC; SM Megamall; SM Manila; SM City North Edsa, QC; Brick Road Areas, QC; Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; Robinsons Place Manila; and Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Call Flor Villote, Gigi Gagno or Ronald Bondoc at 647-4988/5088 for catering services, or Donna Ignacio at 913-5528 for franchising inquiries. Visit Cabalen's website at www.cabalenrestaurant.com.

Meanwhile, Cabalen shares the recipes of some of its special dishes for September.

GATANG Alimasag

Bulalo with Mais

10 kg *bulalo*
7 gallons water
¾ c rock salt
2 tbsp whole black pepper
500 g red onion
250 g onion leeks
2 tbsp MSG
2 kg cabbage
1 kg potato
2 pc beef cubes
Fresh corn

Wash fresh *bulalo*. Drain and set aside. Wash all vegetables and drain. Slice cabbage into quarters; peel and slice potato into quarters, set aside. Do the same with the red onions.

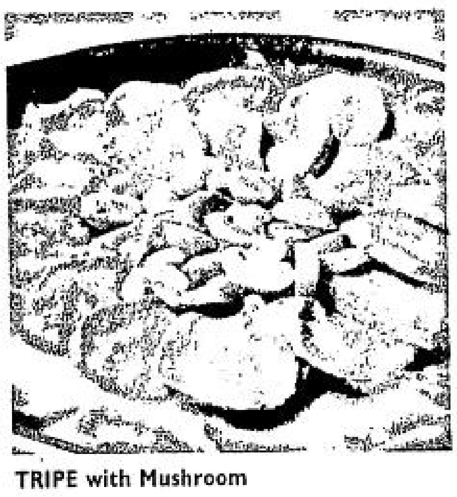
In a clean kettle, pour 7 gallons of water. Add cleaned *bulalo* and salt. Bring to boil for 1 hour. Discard brownish bubbles on top. Add whole black pepper. Reduce fire. Simmer for 1 hour. Stir. Simmer for 3 hours until meat is tender. Add fresh corn and potato. Continue simmering for 40 mins. Remove cooked corn and slice approximately 1" thick. Set aside. Add sliced cabbage to blanch then remove and drain, set aside. Add onion leeks. Taste, then serve hot with cooked vegetables.

Gatang Alimasag

3 kg crabs (*alimasag*)
10 c coconut cream
1/8 c cooking oil
1 small pc ginger, Tagalog
1 pc native garlic
1 pc red onion
3 pc native hot pepper (*labuyo*)
5 pc green hot pepper (*sili haba*)
2 tbsp rock salt
1 bunch spinach

Wash and clean *alimasag*. Discard carapace and claws. Set aside. Extract 3 kg grated coconut to 7 c water. Set aside. Peel, wash and crush garlic. Peel and slice onions. Peel, wash and slice ginger into strips. Wash spinach; discard hard stem. Wash and slice *sili labuyo*. Set aside.

Sauté ginger until light brown. Add garlic and cook until golden brown. Add onions and cook until wilted. Add *alimasag*; stir. Add coconut cream, *sili labuyo* and *sili haba*; bring to boil for 2 mins. Simmer for 15 mins. Season with salt. Add spinach and continue simmering for 1 minute. Serve.


TRIPE with Mushroom

ENSALADANG Pako with Buro

BULALO with Mais

Tripe with Mushroom

3 kg ox tongue (*dila ng baka*), boiled
½ bar Anchor butter
1 pc native garlic
2 pc red onion
3 cans cream of mushroom
2 cans whole mushroom
1 can Nestlé cream
8 c *bulalo* soup stock
¼ c cooking oil

Wash ox tongue, drain thoroughly and set aside. Sear drained *dila*; set aside. Peel and crush garlic; wash and slice onions. Set aside. Slice whole mushroom lengthwise into three.

Sauté garlic in butter until golden brown. Add onion and cook until wilted. Add seared *dila* and *bulalo* soup. Bring to boil for 5 mins. Add sliced whole mushroom, boil for 5 mins. Continue simmering for 15 mins, then pour cream of mushroom. Stir. Continue simmering until *dila* is fully tender. Stir in Nestlé cream. Simmer for 15 mins. Taste then serve.

Ensaladang Pako

1 kg *pako*
Dressing:
5 pc tomatoes, stewed, seeded, peeled
50 g onions, minced
1 pc salted egg, minced
¼ c olive oil
1/8 c white wine vinegar
1 tsp Knorr Aromat

Discard mature stems of *pako*. Wash thoroughly in running water. In a casserole, bring to boil 12 c water. Drop drained *pako*. Blanch for 1 minute. Remove from boiling water. Cool in running water. Drain. Put in a clean covered container. Chill.

Blanch tomatoes; let it cool. Peel skin, discard seeds then mince. Set aside. Peel onions then mince. Set aside. Peel salted egg then mince; set aside.

In a clean mixing bowl, combine minced tomatoes, onions and salted eggs. Mix. Pour little by little olive oil while stirring. Add Knorr Aromat. Pour white wine vinegar little by little while stirring. Taste. Serve.

Light dinner in a snap

GO light but still enjoy a delicious dinner with these recipes that take under 30 minutes to prepare, created by culinary experts chef Eddie Basa and chef Ponz Cordero exclusively for Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Opt for a traditional *adobo* veggie dish with a superb twist or a delightful seafood and greens recipe with the world's favorite marinade, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce is another quality product from HP Ltd. of the United Kingdom.

For *adobo* fans, there's still time to join the L & P promo, which runs till Sept. 15. Up for grabs are a Solingen cutlery set, Tefal cookware or Solingen knives. Simply write your name, address, telephone number and signature at the back of the cream-colored outer wrapper of any size of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Mail the wrapper to: Lea & Perrins Adobomania c/o Getz Brothers Phils. Inc., 5/F Ortigas Building, Ortigas Avenue, 1600 Pasig City.

Adobong Gulay sa Gata

Vegetable Adobo in Coconut Milk

(by chef Eddie Basa)

200 g small okra
200 g string beans (*sitaw*)
1 bundle *pechay*
100 g small young corn
1 c *malunggay* leaves
2 tbsp cooking oil
2 pc small onions
1 tbsp garlic, crushed
1 tsp ginger (*luya*), chopped
2 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
2 tbsp native vinegar
1 c fresh coconut milk
½ c pork *chicharon*
Chili (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste

Cut string beans and shred pechay, stems included. Chop onions and *chicharon*.

Wash all the vegetables and drain in a colander. In a saucepan, add oil and sauté garlic, onions and ginger and cook at medium heat. Add young corn, okra and string beans. Cook until bright green. Be careful not to overcook. Add *pechay* and *malunggay*, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and vinegar. Let it boil without stirring. Set aside.

In a saucepan or *palayok*, boil the coconut milk. Stir to avoid curdling. Add chili (*sili*), if desired. Once the coconut milk becomes oily, pour it on the vegetables a little at a time and slowly blend together. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Mix well until the vegetables have absorbed the coconut milk. Remove from fire. Serve and top with *chicharon*. Serves 4-5.

Figaro ties up with La Cremeria

FIGARO Coffee Co., which recently opened its newest branches at the City Center, Ortigas Avenue and Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, presents two new desserts using Nestlé's La Cremeria ice cream. Steamy Brownie Chill, a dessert drink made with La Cremeria's Chunky Choco Brownie and real espresso. For dessert you can share, try Cool Custard Sizzle, a luscious Banana Custard Pie topped with La Cremeria's Vanilla Choco Chip, paired with a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Another cool reason to stop by Figaro besides great coffee. Log on to www.figarocoffee.com.

Japanese cooking course set on Sept. 14

LEARN the simple yet artful way of Japanese cooking and presentation at The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center as it brings delicious Japanese cuisine to your kitchen with its Japanese Cooking course on Sept. 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn how to make Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, assorted Sushi, Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. Maya Kitchen's Japanese chef will also guide you on how Japanese meal is served and eaten.

There are also other interesting classes to check out. Certificate Courses for adults with pre-registration requirements include Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) course on Sept. 18-20, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., with free lunch. On the same dates, 1:30-5 p.m., there's the Baking I (Basic) class. The Restaurant Operations class is on Sept. 13 and 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen on the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 892-11-85/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

Peñafrancia festival cooking demo

IN CELEBRATION of the town fiesta of Our Lady of Peñafrancia in Naga City, the San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center will hold cooking demonstrations on Sept. 19 at Robertson Mall, Naga City (2-4 p.m.), and at Aristocrat Plaza, Naga City (2-4 p.m.); and on Sept. 21 at LCC Mall (10 a.m.-12 nn). Admission is free.

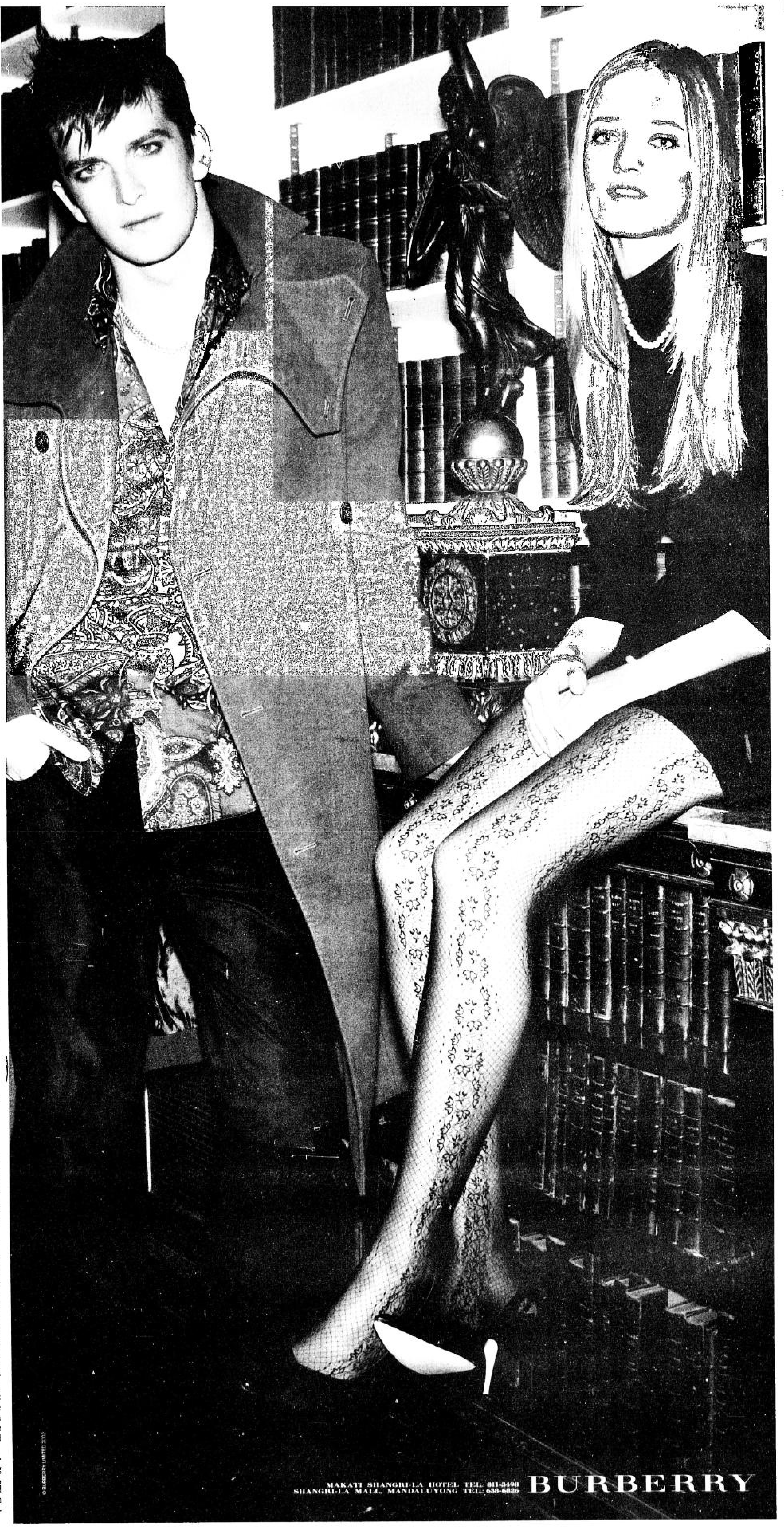
Call Toti Berlamino at (054) 472-3608/9287.

Food seminar set

IDENTIFYING, attracting and maintaining customers are the most important concerns of a food-service business operator after hurdling the food and service aspects.

A seminar-workshop for restaurateurs, caterers, resort operators, and food service executives titled "Marketing and Promoting Your Foodservice Business" by Proactive Center for Training is slated on Sept. 24-26, 2-6 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C5, Libis, QC. Call 787-370 or (0919) 550-0601. Only 20 participants will be accepted. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall to the venue and back will be provided.

Topics include preparing, marketing and advertising plans, public relations and sales promotions in the food-service business.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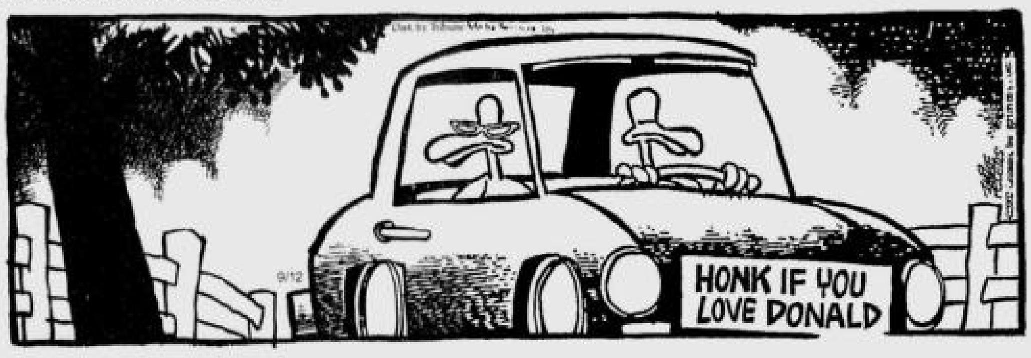
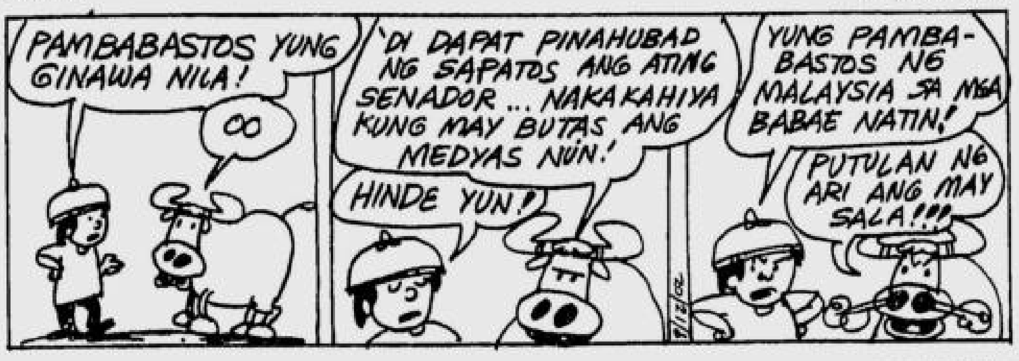
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL TEL: 811-3498
SHANGRI-LA MALL, MANDALUYONG TEL: 638-6826
BURBERRY

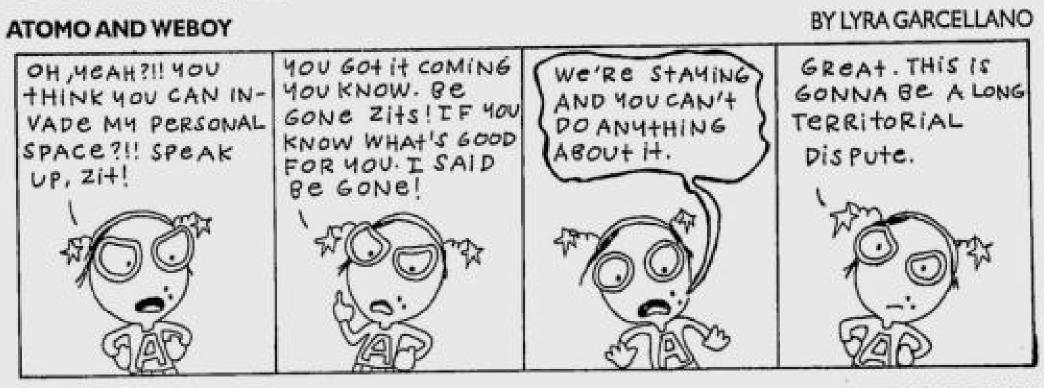
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


HONK IF YOU LOVE DONALD
9/12

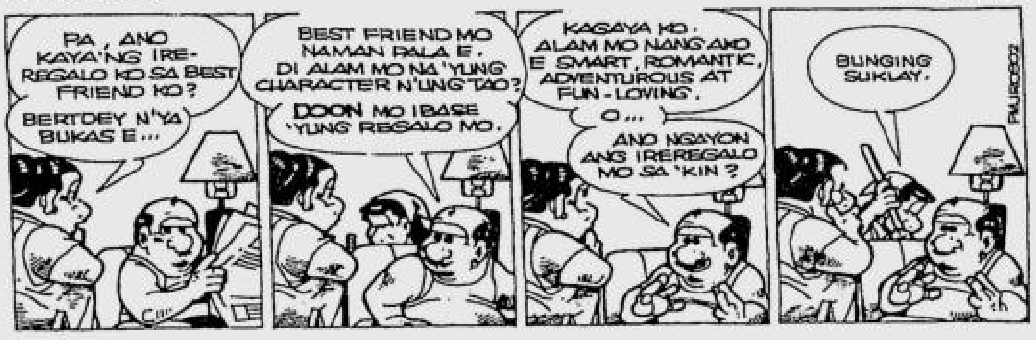
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PAMBABASTOS YUNG GINAWA NILA!
OO
'DI DAPAT PINAHUBAD NG SAPATOS ANG ATING SENADOR ... NAKAKAHIYA KUNG MAY BUTAS ANG MEDYAS NUN!
HINDE YUN!
YUNG PAMBABASTOS NG MALAYSIA SA MGA BABAE NATIN!
PUTULAN NG ARI ANG MAY SALA!!!

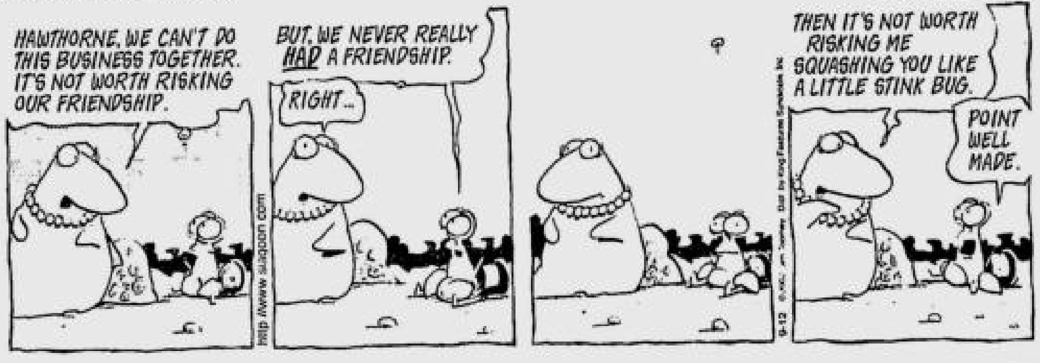
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH, YEAH?!! YOU THINK YOU CAN INVADE MY PERSONAL SPACE?!! SPEAK UP, ZIT!
YOU GOT IT COMING YOU KNOW. BE GONE ZITS! IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU. I SAID BE GONE!
WE'RE STAYING AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
GREAT. THIS IS GONNA BE A LONG TERRITORIAL DISPUTE.

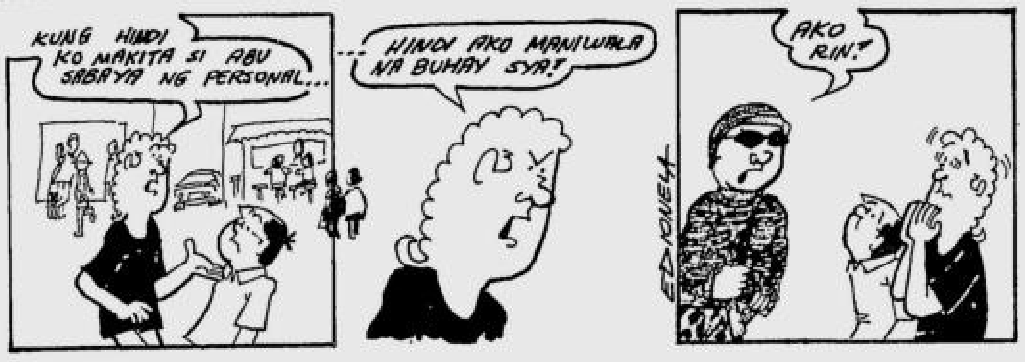
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PA, ANO KAYA'NG IREREGALO KO SA BEST FRIEND KO?
BERTDEY N'YA BUKAS E...
BEST FRIEND MO NAMAN PALA E. DI ALAM MO NA 'YUNG CHARACTER N'UNG TAO?
DOON MO IBASE 'YUNG REGALO MO.
KAGAYA KO. ALAM MO NANG AKO E SMART, ROMANTIC, ADVENTUROUS AT FUN-LOVING.
O...
ANO NGAYON ANG IREREGALO MO SA 'KIN?
BUNGING SUKLAY.

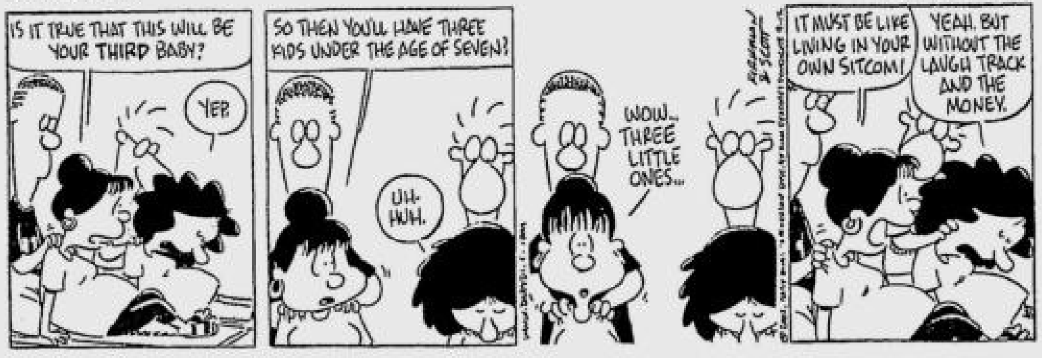
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE, WE CAN'T DO THIS BUSINESS TOGETHER. IT'S NOT WORTH RISKING OUR FRIENDSHIP.
BUT, WE NEVER REALLY HAD A FRIENDSHIP.
RIGHT...
THEN IT'S NOT WORTH RISKING ME SQUASHING YOU LIKE A LITTLE STINK BUG.
POINT WELL MADE.
http://www.slagoon.com

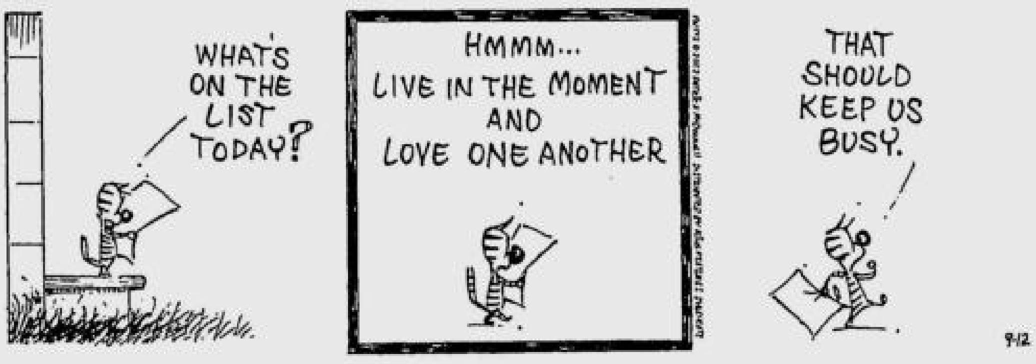
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG HINDI KO MAKITA SI ABU SABAYA NG PERSONAL...
...HINDI AKO MANIWALA NA BUHAY SYA!
AKO RIN!
ED DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


IS IT TRUE THAT THIS WILL BE YOUR THIRD BABY?
YEP.
SO THEN YOU'LL HAVE THREE KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF SEVEN?
UH-HUH.
WOW... THREE LITTLE ONES...
IT MUST BE LIKE LIVING IN YOUR OWN SITCOM!
YEAH. BUT WITHOUT THE LAUGH TRACK AND THE MONEY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON THE LIST TODAY?
HMMM... LIVE IN THE MOMENT AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER
THAT SHOULD KEEP US BUSY.
9-12

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Jones, Maria Muldaur, Peter Scolari, Barry White

Happy Birthday: You may find this a rather emotional year, so keep things in perspective. Eliminate the people and situations that are bringing you down and holding you back. This can turn into a wasted year if you don't act on your feelings. You will do well career-wise, but only if you control your emotions. Your numbers are 12, 16, 23, 38, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Overindulgence will lead to all sorts of problems. You must take better care of yourself. Don't overspend on children or luxury items. This is not the time to jump from one job to another.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Partnerships may be strained today. If so, you may want to spend as little time as possible with the person who is contributing to the tension. Concentrate on work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have creative ideas to share. With the help of those around you, much can be achieved. Expect to hear some interesting news about someone from your past.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in activities that include children or seniors. You need to have greater interaction with people from different generations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It will be difficult to balance everything today. Keeping the peace will be next to impossible so avoid any deep, dark discussion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will need to be a sounding board for a good friend who has become involved with a married person. The time to be blunt with the ones you love is now. You will be thanked later for your help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to be careful when dealing with an individual who is making you promises. Chances are good that this person will not come through with his end of the bargain. Don't put your money on the line.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be emotional about your personal life and the people you care about. You can't change the way someone feels about you. Try to be nice and hope for the best. Being overprotective or restrictive will cause discord.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sudden changes in your financial situation will lead to problems with government agencies. Don't try to cover up for someone else. You will have to let things unfold naturally if you don't want to get into trouble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your desire to be a part of something big will lead to all sorts of other possibilities. Don't make a large donation. Your hard work and dedication should suffice.

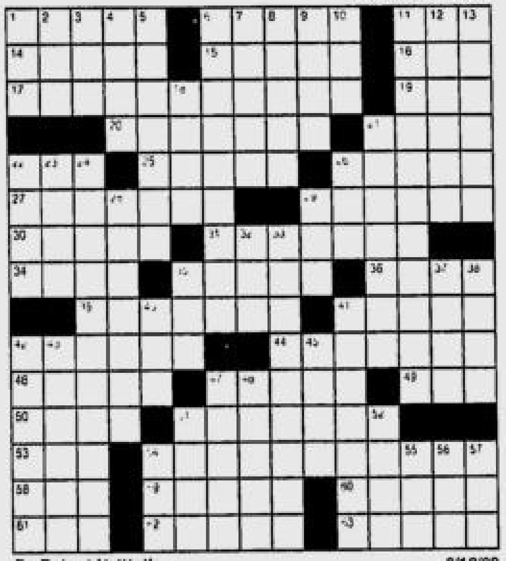
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This isn't the best time to open up and tell everyone what you think and how you feel. Being vocal will only lead to friction and all kinds of repercussions. Do your own thing and let others fend for themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your involvement in new groups will lead to a change in your outlook as well as your plans. Someone you meet through work may show interest in you. Beware: It will probably lead to gossip.

Birthday Baby: You will be trustworthy and always willing to help the underdog. You will be trying to fit as much as possible into each day.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

9/12/02

ACROSS
1 Yawning wide
6 Bird in "Peter and the Wolf"
11 Pedro's Mrs.
14 Tablelands
15 Erect
16 Wee one
17 Monopoly ad suggestion
19 Addams Family cousin
20 Ability to walk aboard
21 Play start
22 Plumbing joint
25 Habituate
26 Cyclist
27 Farm supplier
29 The Green Wave
30 Pot builders
31 Butt
34 Religious statue
35 "Games People Play" author
36 Strong cord
39 High-pitched
41 Young fowl
42 Having a full, shapely figure
44 First woman on the Supreme Court
46 Mary Kate and Ashley
47 More rational
49 Use indigo
50 Those no longer in power
51 Abilities
53 French Mrs.
54 Corset ad suggestion
58 Former queen of Spain
59 Very, in music
60 Zodiac ram
61 Grand Coulee or Hoover
62 Columnist Alexander
63 Irish poet

DOWN
1 Current unit, briefly
2 Set
3 Botanist Gray
4 Gives cash to
5 Reveres
6 Cave man?
7 Boring tool
8 Theater focal point
9 Carries a tune wordlessly
10 Copy
11 Glue ad suggestion
12 Putrid
13 Garb
18 Mandlikova of tennis
21 Wing flap
22 Morales of "La Bamba"
23 Give temporarily
24 Iron ad suggestion
26 On the contrary
28 Takes out text
29 Hemi-lly?
32 Afore
33 Nation of many islands
35 Plead
37 Stratagem
38 Raison d'__
40 Sportscaster Scully
41 Act as
42 Whizzed along
43 Female graduate
45 Small change
47 Spiny beast
48 Scottish poet Ramsay
51 Keister
52 Noble address
54 Pops
55 Actress Long
56 Acquire
57 Former draft org

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	V	E	R	■	I	N	C	A	■	S	H	A	H	S
M	I	S	O	■	S	A	U	L	■	T	U	L	I	P
A	R	T	S	■	M	Y	L	I	F	E	H	A	S	A
S	T	O	I	C	■	S	T	A	L	L	■	■	■	■
S	U	P	E	R	B	■	I	S	O	L	A	T	E	D
■	■	■	R	U	L	E	S	■	P	A	M	E	L	A
A	M	I	■	M	E	S	T	A	■	■	E	R	I	N
C	A	S	T	B	U	T	■	I	C	A	N	N	O	T
H	U	L	A	■	■	A	E	D	E	S	■	S	T	E
E	V	E	R	T	S	■	P	A	R	T	I	■	■	■
D	E	S	P	O	I	L	S	■	F	I	G	U	R	E
■	■	■	■	T	R	A	I	T	■	R	U	N	O	N
C	U	T	T	H	E	P	L	O	T	■	A	P	S	O
A	F	I	R	E	■	S	O	N	E	■	N	E	I	L
T	O	N	E	R	■	E	N	I	D	■	A	N	N	A

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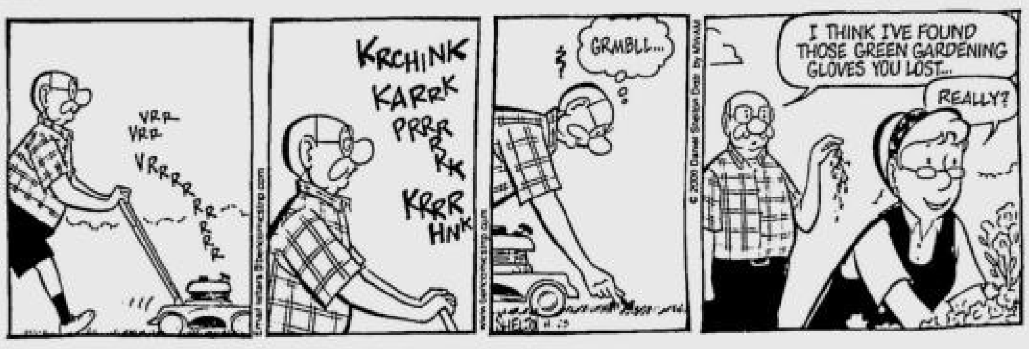
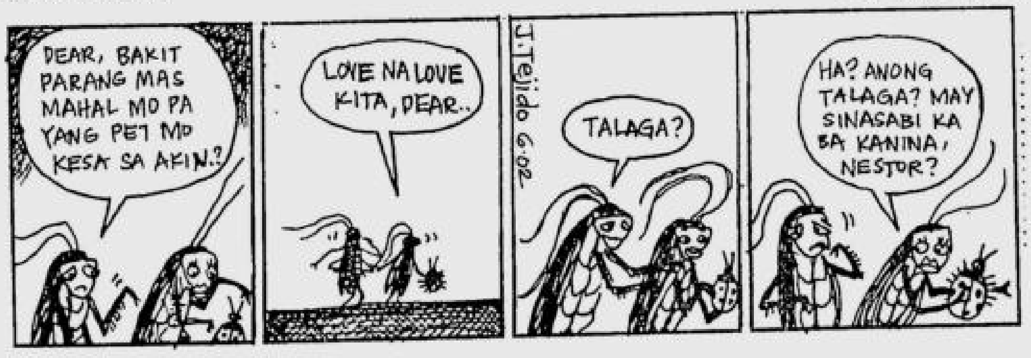
9/12/02

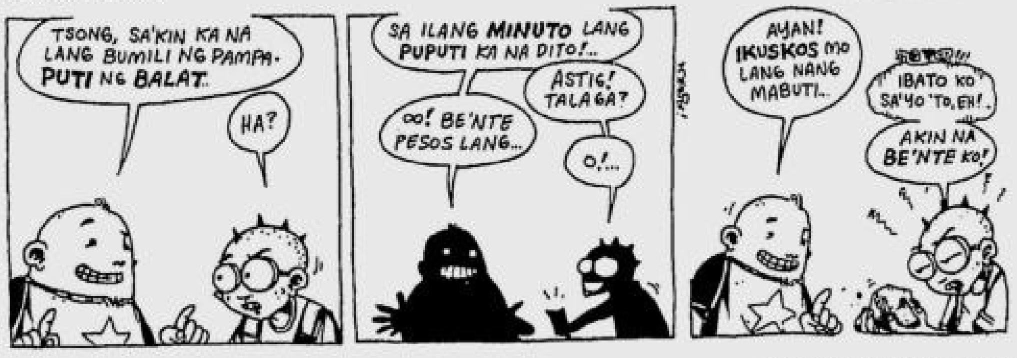
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


VRR VRR VRRRRRRRRRR
KRCHINK KARRK PRRRRK KRRR HNK
GRMBLL...
I THINK I'VE FOUND THOSE GREEN GARDENING GLOVES YOU LOST...
REALLY?

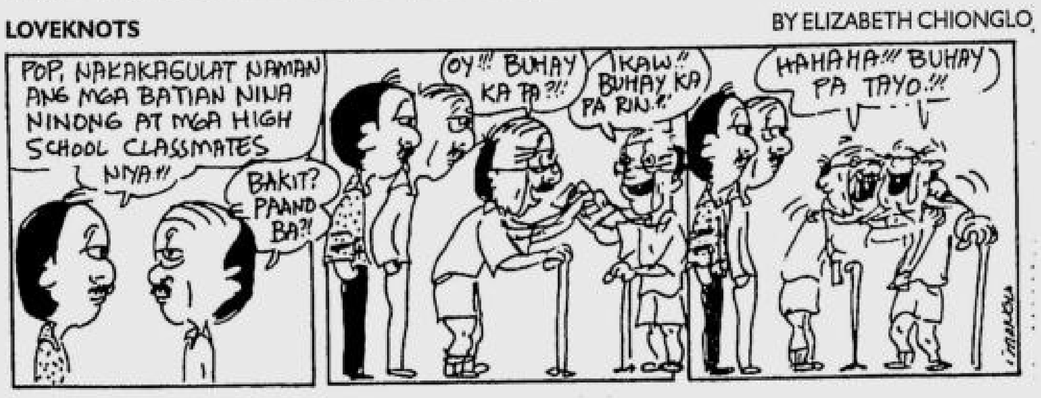
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, BAKIT PARANG MAS MAHAL MO PA YANG PET MO KESA SA AKIN..?
LOVE NA LOVE KITA, DEAR..
J.Tejido 6.02
TALAGA?
HA? ANONG TALAGA? MAY SINASABI KA BA KANINA, NESTOR?

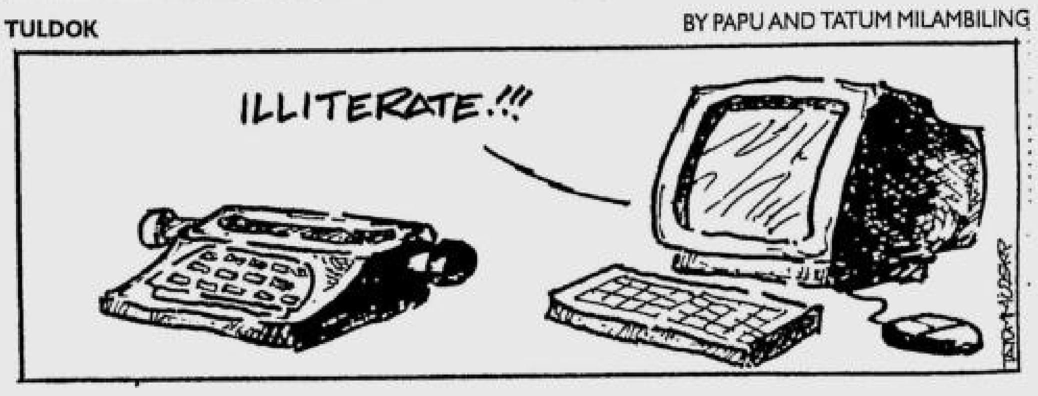
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

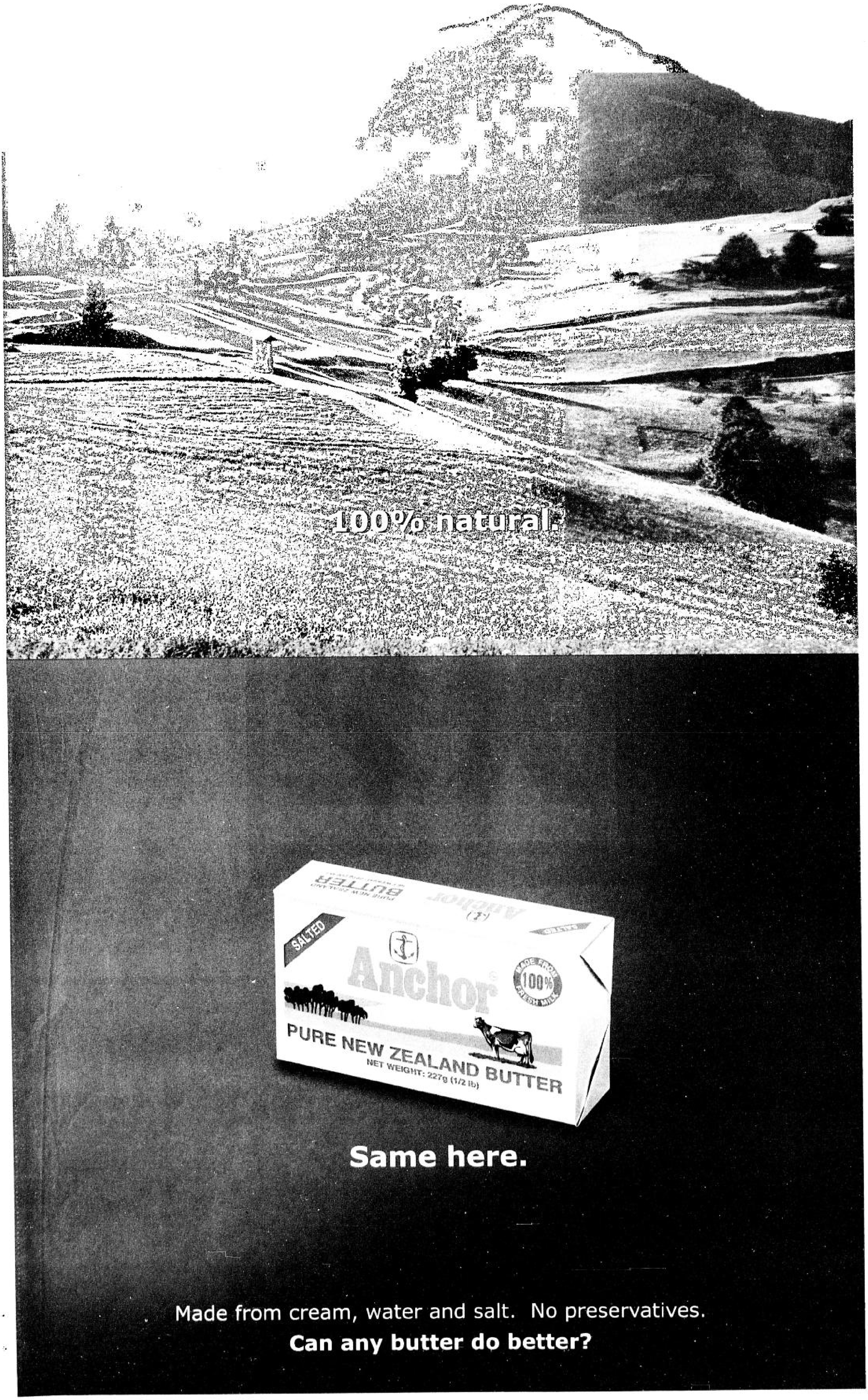

TSONG, SA'KIN KA NA LANG BUMILI NG PAMPAPUTI NG BALAT..
HA?
SA ILANG MINUTO LANG PUPUTI KA NA DITO!..
ASTIG! TALAGA?
OO! BE'NTE PESOS LANG...
O!...
AYAN! IKUSKOS MO LANG NANG MABUTI..
IBATO KO SA'YO 'TO, EH!..
AKIN NA BE'NTE KO!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, NAKAKAGULAT NAMAN ANG MGA BATIAN NINA NINONG AT MGA HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATES NIYA!!
BAKIT? PAANO BA?!
OY!!! BUHAY KA PA?!!
IKAW!! BUHAY KA PA RIN!!
HAHAHA!!! BUHAY PA TAYO!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ILLITERATE!!!


SALTED
Anchor
MADE FROM 100% FRESH MILK
PURE NEW ZEALAND BUTTER
NET WEIGHT: 227g (1/2 lb)

100% natural.

Same here.

Made from cream, water and salt. No preservatives.

Can any butter do better?

Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee bee happy
Jollibee
SAVE P11
₱29
ONLY

French Fries not available for delivery and bulk orders.

2 Reg. French Fries

Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee bee happy
SAVE P22
₱42
ONLY

2 Spaghetti Specials

Jollibee

Sulit-Sarap

X2

Hurry! Until Sept 13 only!

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3350 Series of 2002

Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save P8.00! Buy 2 Jolly Hotdogs for only P52.00 and save P6.00! Hurry! This promo is until September 13 only! Jollibee Sulit-Sarap X 2! Buy 2 French Fries for only P29.00 and save P11.00! Buy 2 Spaghetti Specials for only 42.00 and save P22.00! Buy 2 Reg. Yums with Cheese for only P52.00 and save

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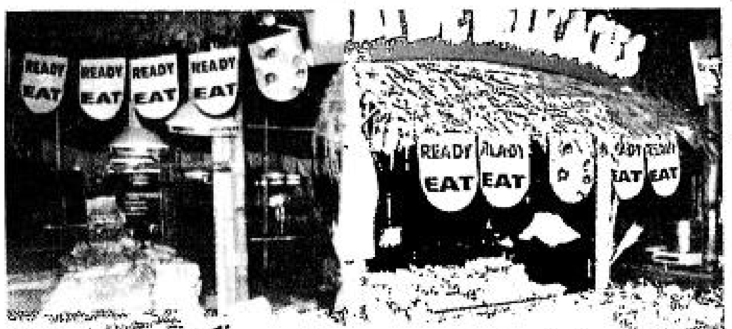
LIFESTYLE



GO native with chips, *puto* and assorted delicacies.

Ready-to-eat meals in one stop

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Roger Carpio

PREPARING the family meal or your kid's *baon* has been made easier. The Big R Supercenter has recently come up with new innovations that make serving lunch, dinner and the snacks in-between an easier task for busy mothers.

Strolling through the Big R's wide aisles and well-stocked shelves is a budget-conscious homemaker's dream. But wait until you get to the new sections that provide reasonable and tasty ready-to-eat food.

First, close to the entrance is the bakery area, which has a wide selection of low-priced baked goodies under the in-house brand, Baker's Treats. Some of its signature items are jumbo muffins that come in 12 flavors, chewy toasted *ensaymada*, filled buns packed with chicken a la king, *asado* and *pata tim*, and various cakes and rolls that range from P70 to P180. Almost all the items are freshly baked. There is also hot-from-the-oven *pan de sal* in classic, cinnamon, rain and cheese flavors.

'Impulse' corner

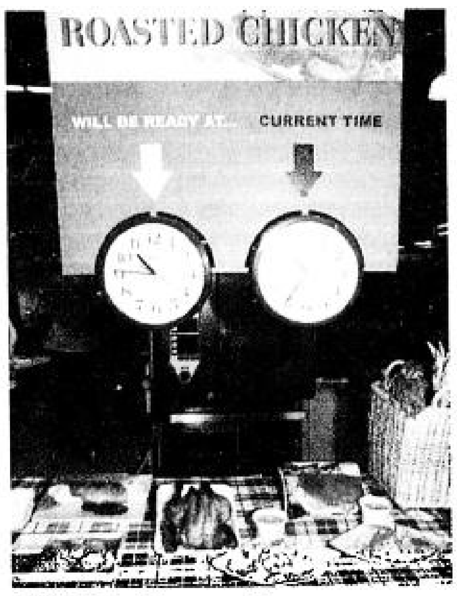
The "impulse-item bay," which is located across the bakery area, carries a wide range of provincial native delicacies. Think shing-a-ling, cassava chips and *espasol* from Laguna, *puto* and *kutsinta* from Bulacan and *bibingka* from Ferino's—all cooked right before your eyes. There is also pizza from Little Ceasar's and R.L. Lapid's *chicharon* straight from the pan! Fruit preserves, candies, nuts and other baking needs, sold by the gram, complete the goods sold in the area.

If chicken is your thing, then you can get your fill at Big R. The roasting bay has roast chicken in four flavors—honey, hot and spicy, garlic *pandan* and pepper and herb. Very affordable at P149 for a whole chicken that can feed a family of four to five, depending on the size of their appetite.

Plus, if you want newly roasted chicken, there are two clocks that tell you exactly when your chicken will be ready. In the meantime, you can do your grocery or check out the other ready-to-eat items while waiting for it to roast. *Crispy pata* can also be cooked right on the spot or bought off-the-rack. Priced at P180, it makes for a hearty meal, which you can pair off with a yummy fresh *lumpiang ubod*, which is huge, tasty and a great value for money at P25 per piece. The *lumpia* is an age-old family recipe of one of the Big R officers; it is a purely vegetarian affair served with the traditional sweet garlic sauce. It's one of the best fresh *lumpias* we've tasted in a long time.

If you have a hankering for Cebu lechon, you need not go far because it's also available at Big R. The Cebu-style native lechon is sold from ¼ kg to one whole at P395/kg. Whet those appetites with a wide selection of freshly made *atchara* and pickles from Laguna, and your meal is all set.

READY/ p.D2



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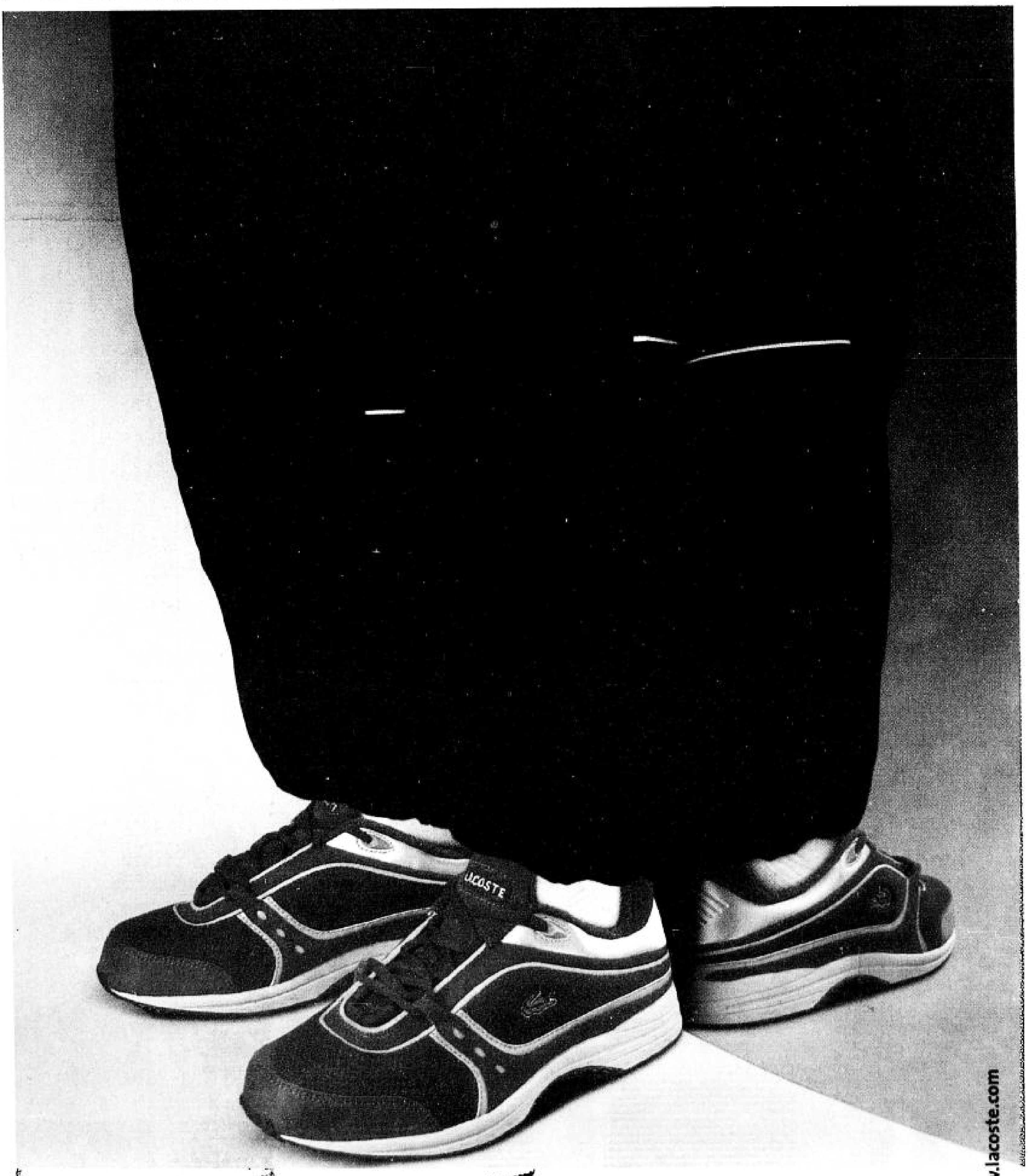

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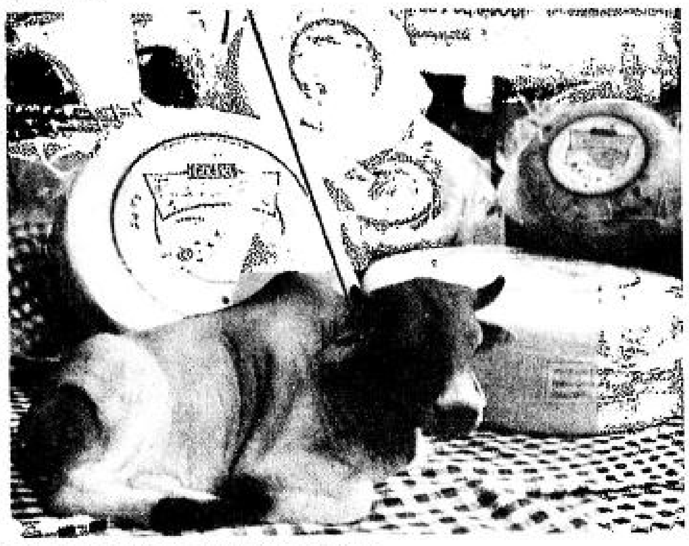
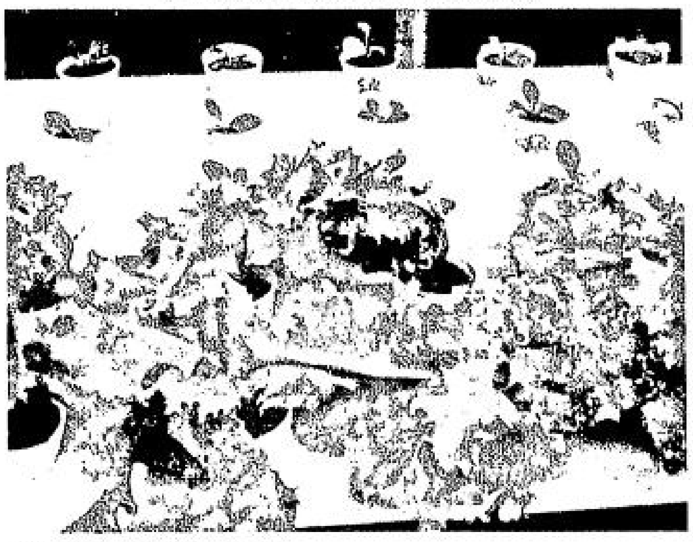
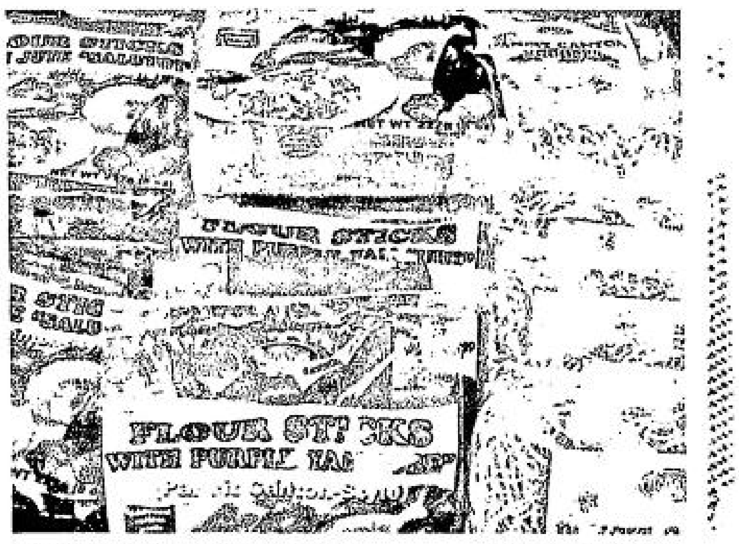


CALF-FOR-SALE and dairy products



LETTUCE for city gardens



NOODLES made from vegetables

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Good buys at weekend farmers market

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

WE'RE taking a break from our usual column format by writing about our exciting finds in a recent foray at the weekend farmers market in the Tesda compound, Bicutan.

Carabao milk from Bulacan, venison from Nueva Vizcaya, lamb from Masbate, coffee beans from the highlands of Cavite, boneless *bangus* from Sarangani, tuna from General Santos, and unusual fruits and vegetables are but some of the good finds that draw crowds at the Tesda farmers market. But it's the fresh quality of the goods and their cheap prices that attract buyers to the farmers market organized by Agro-Aqua Network Inc. or Aani. It used to be on the grounds of Magallanes Commercial Center before it moved last year to its present site, where it has grown even bigger.

FRUIT-FLAVORED *lambanog*

There are now over 250 stalls offering seafood, meat, fruits, vegetables, processed food, garden plants, fresh flowers, handicraft, and most everything else that are related to agriculture. Held every weekend, the *tiangge* draws buyers, not only from nearby villages but also from other parts of Metro Manila. They come by private car or by public transport that pass on the east service road off South Luzon expressway.

Occasionally, the market organizer holds special agri fairs and educational seminars at the site. Some recent events included a mango festival followed by "Sariwang Gulay, Prutas, Pagkain, atbp." These special events are held purposely to link up farmers and cooperatives with consumers and marketing groups.

It is a consumers market actually, although more and more people into all kinds of food-related businesses are discovering the place. Food processors, restaurant owners, florists, and caterers now mingle with consumers and vie for the good buys.

Pleasant surprises

Rare folksy items keep the likes of us going to this weekend market, like *tapang baboy damo* (dried meat of wild boar), *tapang usa (dried deer meat), sukang iloko* (vinegar from Ilocos), and the *kakanin*. Truly the Filipino farm market, it sells *suman, bibingka, puto, kesong puti, pastillas, empanadas, kutsinta*, and carabao milk.

Also available from time to time are root crops, the kind we don't always find in our neighborhood market. These are tubers called *tuge, dilaw* (turmeric, a kind of ginger that makes a difference when used in *paella*), *gusol* (healing ginger), white *ube*, and different sizes and shapes of *gabe*. By the way, white *ube* is as rare as they come, so grab it if you see it.

Live giant chickens called *kabir* and free-ranging *sasso*, turkey, duck, goose, quail, goat, and lambs, are often times displayed at the meat stalls. We were told that we could order any of the farm animals and poultry on display. The lambs, they said, are raised in ranches in Bulacan and as far as Masbate. Prices of two-three week-old chicks of *kabir* and *sasso* chickens range from P80-P100 each.

Seafood and vegetables

COFFEE beans from the Cavite highlands

FILIPINO dishes are now preserved in cans and jars.

Seafood choices range from imported salmon, tuna, pompano, marlin, boneless *daing na bangus, hito* and *tilapia*. You can ask the sellers to broil the fish and take it home, or you can eat the fish while you go around the market. If you are venturesome enough, try sampling native seafood dishes like *sinaing* from Batangas, *laing* from Bicol, or *daing* from Cebu.

In addition to *pechay* and cabbages, there is an odd assortment of Pinoy vegetables such as *kamote* tops, *ampalaya* tops, squash flowers, *talinum, alukon, alugbati, pako, saluyot* and many more. There are fancy vegetables, too, like small cucumbers, baby carrots, colored and curly lettuce, kale, eggplants in odd shapes and chinese *kangkong*.

Organic crops

Not to be left out, organic farmers have staked their own corner in Tesda. The group called Organic Producers Trade Association offers chemical-free vegetables, chicken, dairy products, and culinary herbs like basil, rosemary, chives, marjoram, pepper, etc.

Also available are organically-grown rice, including vanishing upland and wild rice, apple cider with honey, and a wide range of processed dairy products from Rizal Dairy Farms. By the way, this is the only dairy farm in the country that makes mozzarella and ricotta cheese from the milk of organically raised cows.

Our most exciting find during a recent foray to the market was a novel root crop which Tesda goers call *yacon*. According to food writer Eufemia C. Estrada, a market habitue herself, firm believers in the medicinal properties of the root crop also call it "apple of the earth." Supposedly rich in insulin content, *yacon* is said to be highly prized by Japanese and Koreans. Estrada added that the Koreans introduced the crop to Claveria, Misamis Oriental, where it is now being grown on a large scale.

Other exciting finds are dragon fruits (supposedly another fruit that is touted for its medicinal properties), durian from Luzon, unusual varieties of mangoes, passion fruit, *balimbing*, native guavas, and all kinds of fruits in season.

The Tesda farmers market is the brainchild of agriculture journalist Zac Sarian. For more information on the weekend market, call Pol Rubia (888-2225/893-8743/893-8783) or e-mail aani@skyinet.net.

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph or lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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Ready-to-eat meals in one stop

Big R Supercenter has come up with the ultimate innovation for busy mothers: food cooked just in time for the family dinner

SNAP, crackle and pop! *Chicharon* from R.L. Lapid's

From page D1

Non-pork items

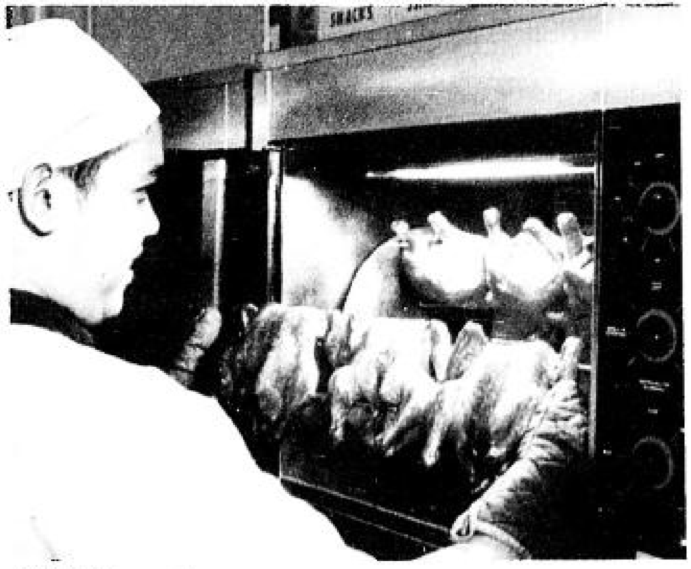
It's not all pork at Big R. There is an on-the-spot cooking area where seafood items and chicken fillet can be cooked according to your preference. You pick out crabs, prawns or chicken and then select a sauce—chili garlic, black bean or sweet and sour—then the item is cooked right before your eyes. There is a 20-minute minimum cooking time. Cooking charge for seafood is at P45/half-kilo, while the total cost of chicken fillet dishes is at P135, which includes ½ kg of chicken fillet.

So, the next time you're in a mad rush for that party or need to feed a battalion of your children's friends, hop over to Big R and impress them with your honey roasted chicken, *crispy pata*, some *atchara*, chili garlic prawns and *fresh lumpia*, and *bibingka* for dessert. They'll leave your home thinking that cooking's just a breeze.

Big R is located in Novaliches and at Robinson's Metro East.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

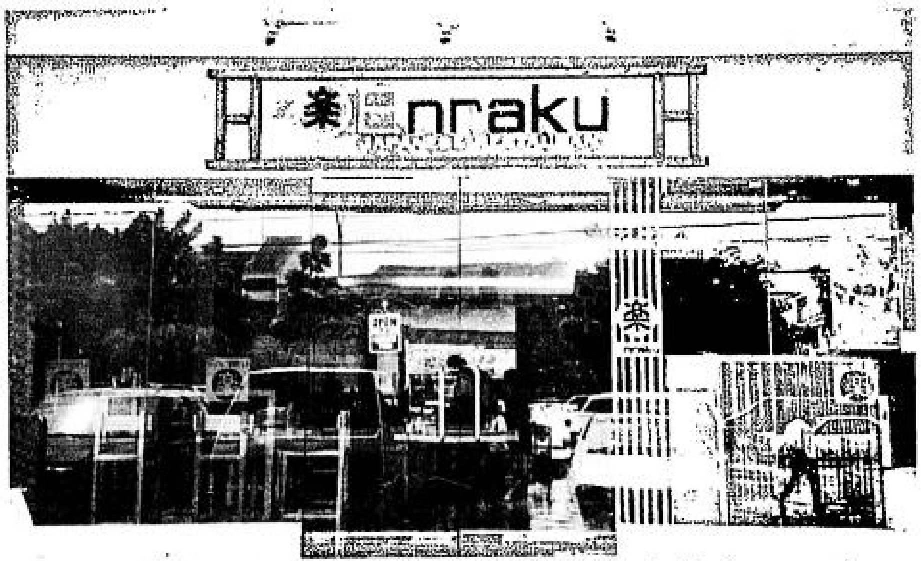
SEAFOOD on-the-spot



CHICKEN-a-cooking

MANY-FLAVORED chicken

ATCHARA to go



CITY Center, Ortigas Avenue's foremost lifestyle and leisure destination, opened recently. Among the establishments at City Center are Figaro, Here's, Enraku Japanese Restaurant, Bottomless Grill, Posh Nails (Hand and Foot Spa), Bench Fix Salon, Puzzle House, Casio Music Circle, East West Bank and Luscious.

PIAZZE di Pro Health Restaurant and Bar, a division of Pro Health International Inc., recently opened at 199 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City. Gracing the ribbon-cutting were Parañaque Vice Mayor Jun Bernabe, Connie Zialcita-Trinos (chief of staff of Parañaque Rep. Ed Zialcita) and the officers of Pro Health led by president Vio Castillo. Fr. Pete Talon officiated at the blessing. The restaurant specializes in European cuisine, and is open daily (Monday to Thursday, 2-11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m.-12 mn; Sunday, 12 nn-9 p.m.). Call 829-1060/0538.

Resort and restaurant is new venue for social events in Davao

GARDEN Oases Resort and Restaurant in Davao City recently opened its new Chinese restaurant, the Mei Hua Chung T'sai. Located within the Garden Oases compound, the restaurant specializes in seafood like crabs, lobsters, *pampano*, *lapu-lapu*. Garden Oases on Porras Street in Barrio Obrero has been the favorite venue of weddings, debuts, anniversaries, baptisms, company parties, conventions, seminars, meetings and other social events.

Garden Oases also has function rooms that can accommodate 30-300 people and gardens that are a perfect place for romantic garden weddings.

PLAZA Fair perks up Cagayan de Oro nightlife with its newest project called "Plaza fair Food Strip" located at Plaza Fair Limketkai Center in Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City. The strip is now available for lease to restaurants, bars, coffee shops and other similar establishments.

The redevelopment of Plaza Fair department store is divided into three phases. Phase 1 is the re-imagining of the store. Phase 2 is the conversion of non-selling areas into selling areas, while Phase 3 is the construction of additional areas on Rosario Crecent Street. This will offer a variety of shops that include health and beauty centers, coffee shops, snack bars and specialty shops.

Taking care of your freezer

TO GET the best out of your freezer, you must care properly for your appliance. Glad, maker of high-grade freezer bags, offers some tips to keep your freezer in tip-top shape:

Good location. Place the freezer or fridge in a cool, dry room away from direct sunlight and hot appliances like ovens and stoves so it will perform better. Make sure to leave room on the sides and back (about two inches, at least) so your freezer can breathe.

Prevent freeze-ups. Frost buildup causes a freezer's motor to work too hard. When defrosting, unplug the refrigerator or freezer before clearing out the compartment. Never break off ice with a sharp instrument as it will damage your appliance. When you turn the freezer back on, close its door and let it run for about 10-15 minutes before you put food back in the freezer.

Energy-saver. Hot food should be cooled at room temperature before placing them in the freezer so as not to overwork the appliance. You can help save energy by making sure your freezer door gasket seals properly.

Order in the freezer. Organize your freezer by labeling items inside the compartment. Working your way through refrigerator clutter means leaving the door open longer than necessary—a sure way to waste energy. To keep order in your freezer and save on power, use thick, high-grade Glad Freezer Bags. You can keep tab of the contents of the bag because Glad Freezer Bags have a write-on strip for easy identification. The yellow-and-blue-make-green seal tells you that the bag is shut tight and food is securely stored.

Homemakers need not buy the most high-tech appliance model to run a truly efficient household. To maintain the freshness of food inside the freezer, don't forget to use Glad Freezer Bags, the indispensable kitchen aid for your freezing and storage needs.

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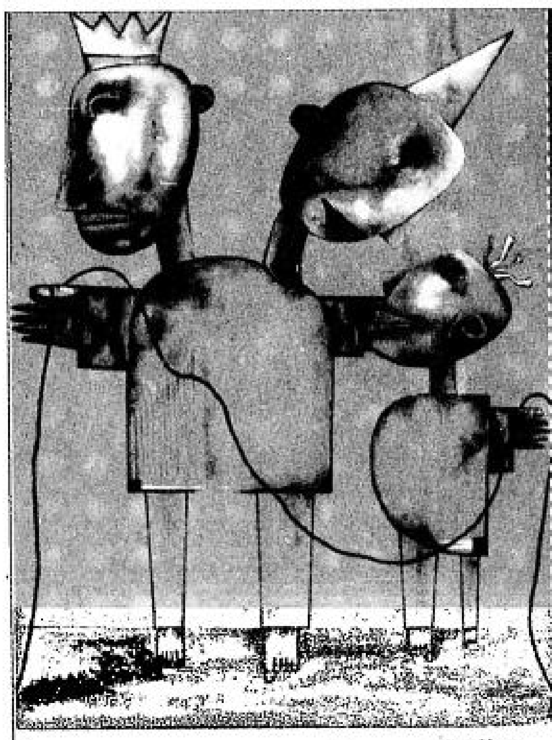

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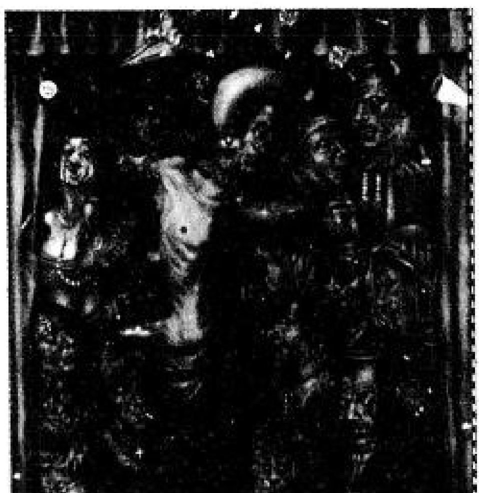
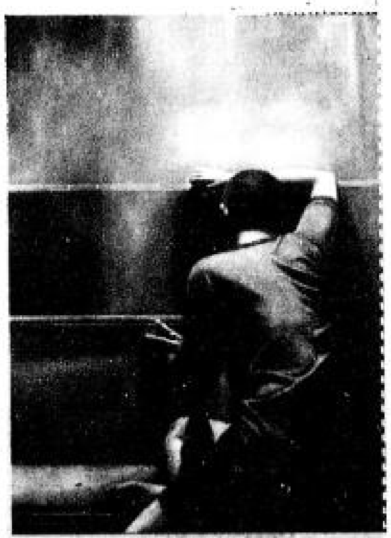
"PINAG-ISANG PANGARAP"
Isagani C. Monje
91.44 x 121.92 cm

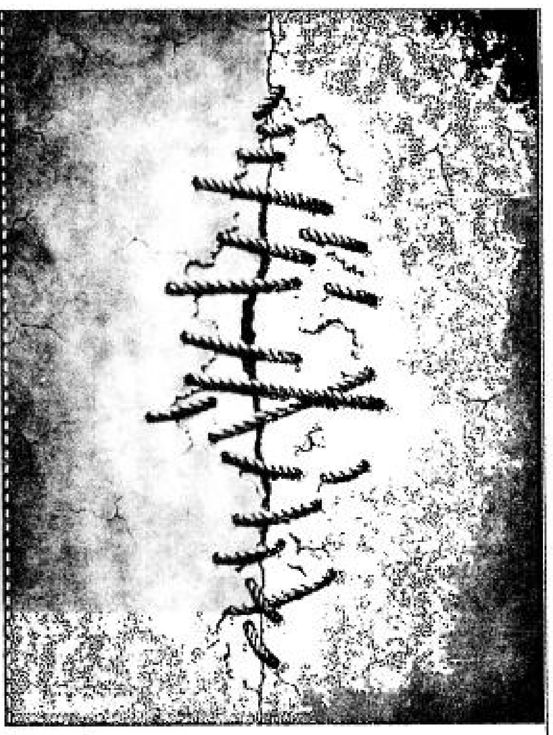
oil-based medium



2nd Place
"MAPAGKUNWARING PAGKATAO"
Dennis M. Gonzales
91.44 x 121.92 cm

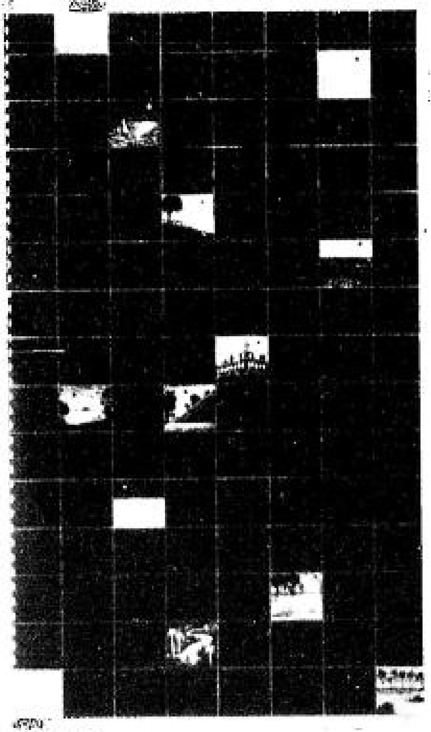


3rd Place
"UNTITLED"
Christopher H. Zamora
91.44 x 121.92 cm

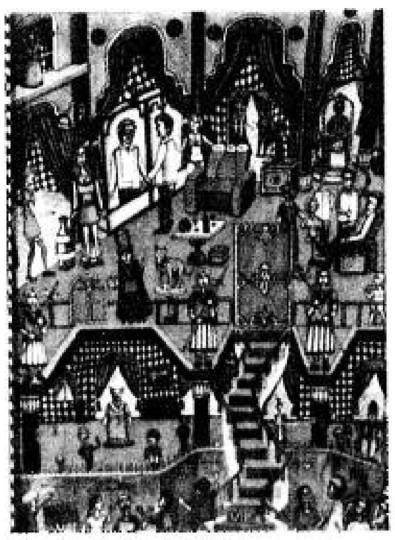


1st Place
"STITCH OF THE NATION"
Rex S. Tatlonghari
76.20 x 101.60 cm

water media on paper



2nd Place
"BARREN SCAPES"
Cecile L. Oliveros
45.72 x 76.20 cm



3rd Place
"SIRKUS"
Rosauro A. Cabacungan
55.88 x 76.20 cm

Cited by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines as a "...Competition that generously assists fledgling artists in gaining artistic recognition and providing encouragement to budding painters in realizing their goal," the **Metrobank Foundation's Young Painters' Annual** once again honors this year's finest crop of amateur visual artists who emerged winners in the YPA national painting competition. Joining our distinguished roster of awardees, who include some of the country's up and coming young painters, these winners stood out from more than 700 amateur visual artists who joined the competition. As we salute each of our winners, we pay tribute to their talent and bid them well on their journey towards greater artistic excellence.

Exhibit will run from **September 13 to 27**
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President Joins RFM

RFM PRESIDENT
ENTERPRISES CORPORATION

In a move aimed at revolutionizing the Philippine food market, the President Group of Taiwan has joined RFM Corporation of the Philippines in forming a joint venture that seeks to introduce a new line of exciting and innovative food products in the country.

Two of the largest conglomerates in Asia, **Uni-President Enterprises Corporation and RFM,** entered into this joint venture on March 1, 2001. Her Excellency, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo played a key role in the birth of this strong partnership when she presided over the signing ceremonies held in Malacanang. That event led to the creation of a new company, the **RFM President Enterprises Corporation (RPEC).**

This undertaking has since brought in fresh capital investments, construction of a modern plant, generated employment opportunities and developed innovative noodle products in line with its overall commitment towards raising the quality of food for the Filipinos.

The two companies, considered manufacturing giants of the region, are optimistic and confident that Filipinos will welcome the new, exciting and innovative products. Looking at their rich history, it seems that the formidable union of RFM and Uni-President is a perfect match. They both started out as flour mills and later evolved into being among the largest branded food and beverage companies in the Philippines and Taiwan. Through the years, the two food giants remain committed to high quality. They are also well known for innovations in the food and beverage industry and steadfast adherence to sound and fair business.

Included in RFM Corporation's current line-up of brands, which are considered major brands in their respective categories are White King brand for specialty flour mixes, Fiesta brand for spaghetti and pasta products, Selecta Moo brand for milk and milk products, Sunkist brand for ready-to-drink and powdered juices, and Swift brand for chilled and canned meat.

RFM also boasts of its widely preferred Selecta brand of ice cream and frozen novelties offered by Selecta Walls, Inc., its joint venture with Unilever.

Right now, RFM's focus is in recreating its food and beverage products to exceed customer expectations. RFM is revitalizing all its brands, by making superior or distinctive products, visually arresting packaging and impactful advertising and merchandising.

The Uni-President Enterprises Corporation is Taiwan's largest company in the food industry. It exports a wide range of food products encompassing beverages, dairy products, frozen food, health food, ice products, instant noodles, meat products, oil for business use and soy sauce.

The joint venture with RFM is part of the company's considerable overseas investments in Southeast Asia, mainland China and North America.

As a company, Uni-President is committed to high growth and steady diversification. It has continually sought joint ventures with foreign companies to absorb new skills and concepts. RFM is Uni-President's best choice because of the two companies' similar success stories. Founded in 1967 with only 82 employees and NT$32 million capital, Uni-President now has more than 6,000 employees. Annual sales are in the level of US$ 6 billion. In Taiwan, Uni-President is the undisputed market leader in noodle products and the second largest noodle manufacturer in the world. Beyond noodles, Uni-President is also a dominant player in the food and beverage in Taiwan and China, and going strong in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. For Uni-President, the joint venture is a vote of confidence not only for RFM Corporation but also for the Philippine economy.

With the considerable resources of the Concepcion-led RFM Corporation and the formidable investment of Uni-President, the joint venture is destined to be another success story.

The Philippines remains an attractive investment destination for our Asian neighbors and the rest of the world. The strategic synergy of strengths of the RFM Corporation of the Philippines and the Uni-President Enterprises Corporation of Taiwan is strong proof of this.

The union of these companies highlights the unique qualities of Philippine companies that continue to draw investors to our shores. It is my hope that the new organization that would evolve from this partnership would equate to more job opportunities for the Filipinos and the introduction of more sophisticated manufacturing technology to the country.

More Power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Today marks another milestone in RFM history as our new noodle joint venture with the Uni-President group of Taiwan, inaugurates its modern manufacturing facility in the Philtown Industrial Estate in Tanauan, Batangas. Our new food plant represents the start of the realization of our joint venture's commitment to produce superior and value-for-money noodles and noodle products for the Filipino. The establishment of the food plant also signals our continuing faith in the Filipino and our abiding hope in the future of our country.

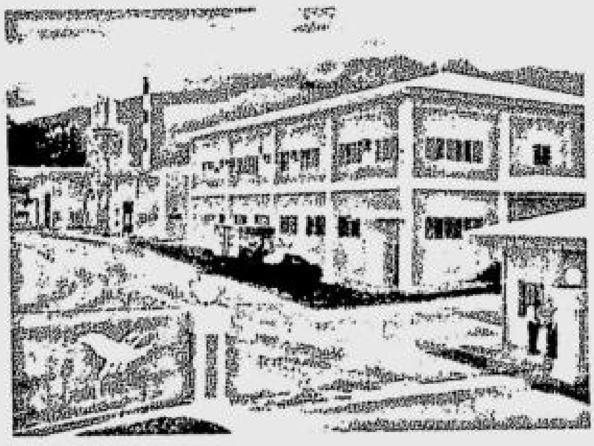
The momentous event becomes even more historic as our joint venture likewise unveils its first set of exciting noodle products under the "Saucy Mi" and "Nooda Crunch" brands, which will truly satisfy the cravings of Filipino consumers for innovative and high quality products. The RFM group is very happy and proud to be a part of the nurturing and development of these new brands and products as it is very much in line with our twin thrusts towards building brands and raising the quality of food for the Filipino.

JOSE A. CONCEPCION III
President and CEO, RFM Corporation

Uni-President Enterprises Corp. of Taiwan has long desired to be a part of the Philippines' business community because it has always believed in the country's future and in its people. Our exposure to your culture and to some of your business organizations has further confirmed our corporation's vision of establishing a strong presence in this market. After a long and diligent search for a suitable local partner which would complement our strengths, we are very happy and proud to have partnered with RFM , a corporation which has many similarities to ours in terms of global vision, aggressive marketing, a singular dedication to quality and concern for our employes. Given the substantial growth rates we have been fortunate to achieve in Taiwan, China, Indonesia, the United States and other countries, we are confident we can achieve the same in this country and thus continue to offer employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy. I congratulate your country and your government for giving us the opportunity to invest in this market.

JASON LIN
President, Uni-President Enterprises, Corp.

New Joint Venture to launch Noodle Products



SAUCY MI
SAUCY MI
SAUCY MI

RFM-President Enterprises Corporation (RPEC) will be offering new, unique, superior and distinctive noodle products in response to the needs, demands and distinct food tastes of Filipinos. The company will initially focus on launching new exciting lines of noodle products in the market next month.

Today, as RPEC inaugurates its state-of-the-art food plant in Tanauan, Batangas, it will also launch "Saucy Mi", the only instant pancit canton that captures the "sauciness" and taste of an authentic Chinese pancit canton with its luscious mix of oriental spices and ingredients. Saucy Mi will come in original, toyomansi and hot and spicy flavors in convenient pouch packs.

Saucy Mi has been created not only to look appetizing, but also to treat the senses with its rich smell and succulent flavor. It is a great snack or a complete meal in itself.

RPEC will also introduce another first to the Filipino consumer—ready-to-eat, healthy snack in unique noodle form. Nooda Crunch will allow snackers to enjoy noodles in three easy steps: Crush, Mix and Shake. Enjoy Nooda Crunch in popular flavors like cheese, barbecue and pizza. Just crush then open the pack, mix in the special flavors, shake and munch the crunchy flavored noodles. Nooda Crunch will be enjoyed by both children and adults.

Saucy Mi and Nooda Crunch will soon be available at your favorite sari-sari stores and leading supermarkets. These innovative and exciting products promise to delight and satisfy the taste of all consumers.

NOODA CRUNCH
NOODA CRUNCH
NOODA CRUNCH

For more information contact RFM-President Enterprises Corp., Unit 2004-A East Tower, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City • Tel. 687-3020

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Delicious prose and delightful dishes at this year's Chefs on Parade

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

OVER lunch about a year ago, Michaela Fenix, Norma Chikiamco, Karina Bolasco, Myrna Segismundo and the late Doreen Fernandez agreed that writing about food—its history and future—could be a potential career path for everyone. What could they do to encourage more people to get into food writing?

The women writers—most of them food connoisseurs—thought of holding a competition on food writing. Unfortunately, Doreen passed away in June of this year and would not see their brilliant idea come to pass.

The writing contest that is now part of the annual culinary event Chefs on Parade is called the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Award for Food Writing, as a tribute to "the dean and icon of all food writers," says Myrna Segismundo, chair of this year's big bash for chefs.

Winners of the food writing contest will be announced on the last day of the Chefs on Parade, which will be held on Sept. 19-21 at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard. This year marks COP's silver jubilee and the 50th founding anniversary of Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP), which is now headed by Michael Herrman of InterContinental Manila.

The DGF Award is open only to hotel and restaurant management students and teachers whose schools are members of the HRAP. According to Michaela Fenix, who chairs the competition, there will be a separate category for students and teachers. They may write about a home, hometown or home province specialty dish or dessert in ess[illegible] English. Points for judging consist of content (50 percent), research (30 percent) and style (20 percent).

"Food writing is more than just reviewing restaurants and writing recipe books," says Fenix, who's also a food critic, food writer and cookbook author. "Food writing involves a lot of research and study. You have to give your readers more information about food, not just the experiences, but also the history behind it."

Culinary showdown

In addition to the food-writing contest, hundreds of chefs, kitchen artists, bartenders and hotel and restaurant management students will take part in other on-the-spot contests during Chefs on Parade 2002, the longest-running culinary arts event in the country organized by HRAP.

A grand parade of 1,000 students in chef and waiter uniforms will open the three-day culinary extravaganza. As in the previous years, there are two competition divisions—professional and student.

In the professional division, there will be a total of 20 competitions with 207 participants coming from nine hotels, seven restaurants and one provincial contingent from Cebu. The student division has only six competitions lined up but there are now a record-setting 485 participants from 49 schools from as far up north as Baguio going down to Pampanga, Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas. Even Iloilo and Davao all the way down south have jumped on board.

Top chefs from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong, together with Manila's noted restaurant owners and hotel chefs, will judge the skills, artistry and ingenuity of the participants.

For instance, the Market Basket contest is a test in speed and instant creativity. Within three hours, a team of three will be asked to prepare and cook a three-course meal for five persons consisting of one hot or cold appetizer or soup, one main course and one dessert. Contestants are allowed only 30 minutes to pick up their respective *mise en place* market list of ingredients, prepared a day before, to get ready for the actual preparation/execution and cooking of the dishes. Market Basket has two categories: classical and Filipino.

DELICIOUS/ p.E2

THE DOREEN Gamboa Fernandez Award for Food Writing pays honor to the late dean of food writers.

A HOT dessert from Marilyn Tantiangco, COP 2000 overall winner, flambé competition

Photo by Jim Guiao Punzalan

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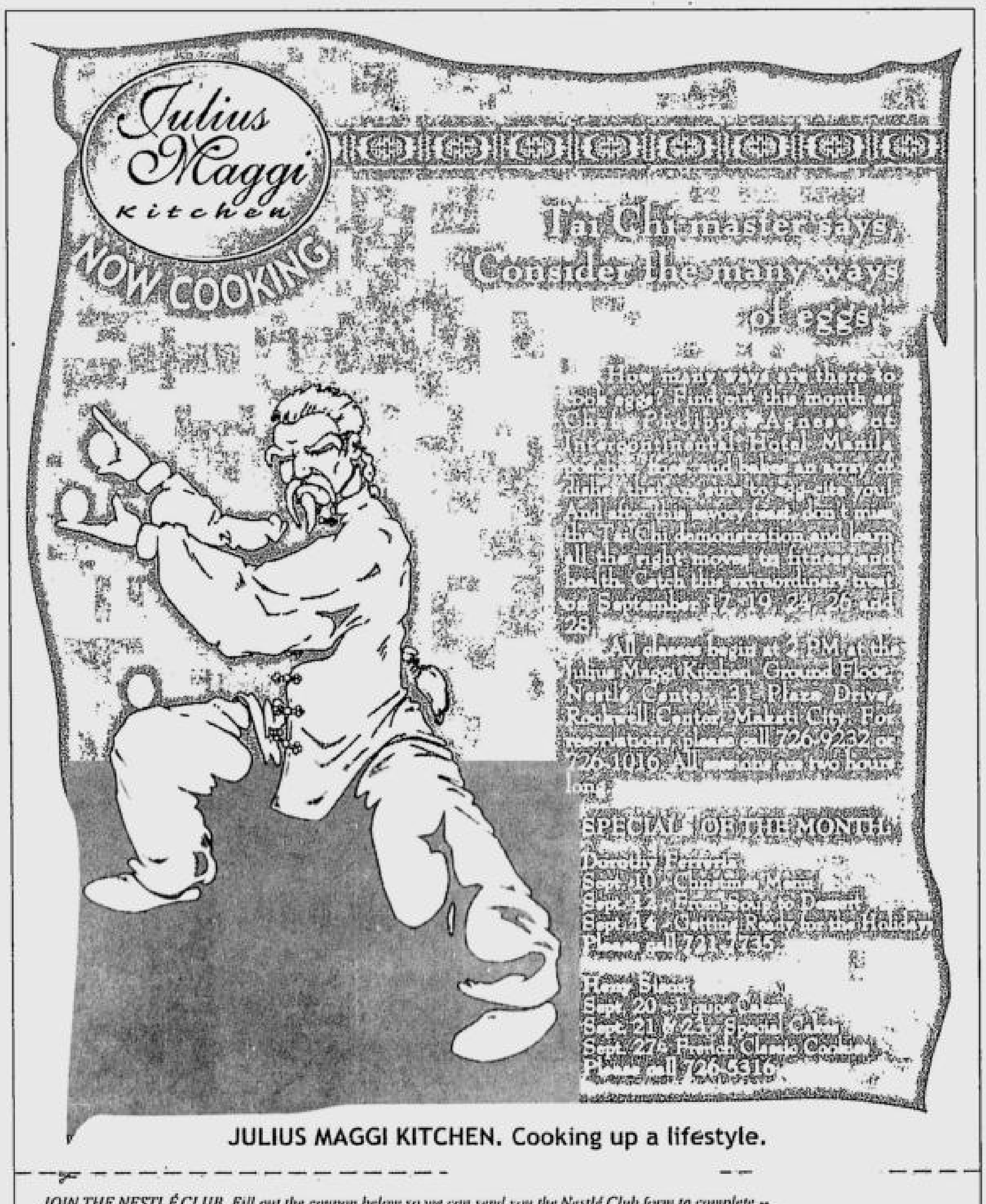

Julius Maggi Kitchen
NOW COOKING

Tai Chi master says, Consider the many ways of eggs.

How many ways are there to cook eggs? Find out this month as Chef Philippe Agnese of Intercontinental Hotel Manila [illegible] and bakes an array of [illegible]. All are sure to [illegible] you! And after this savory feast, don't miss the Tai Chi demonstration and learn all the right moves to fitness and health. Catch this extraordinary treat on September 17, 19, 24, 26 and 28.

All classes begin at 2 PM at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For reservations, please call 726-9232 or 726-1016. All sessions are two hours long.

SPECIAL OF THE MONTH
[illegible]
Sept. 10 [illegible]
Sept. 12 From Soup to Dessert
Sept. 14 Getting Ready for the Holiday
Please call 721-[illegible]735

[illegible]
Sept. 20 [illegible]
Sept. 21 & 23 [illegible]
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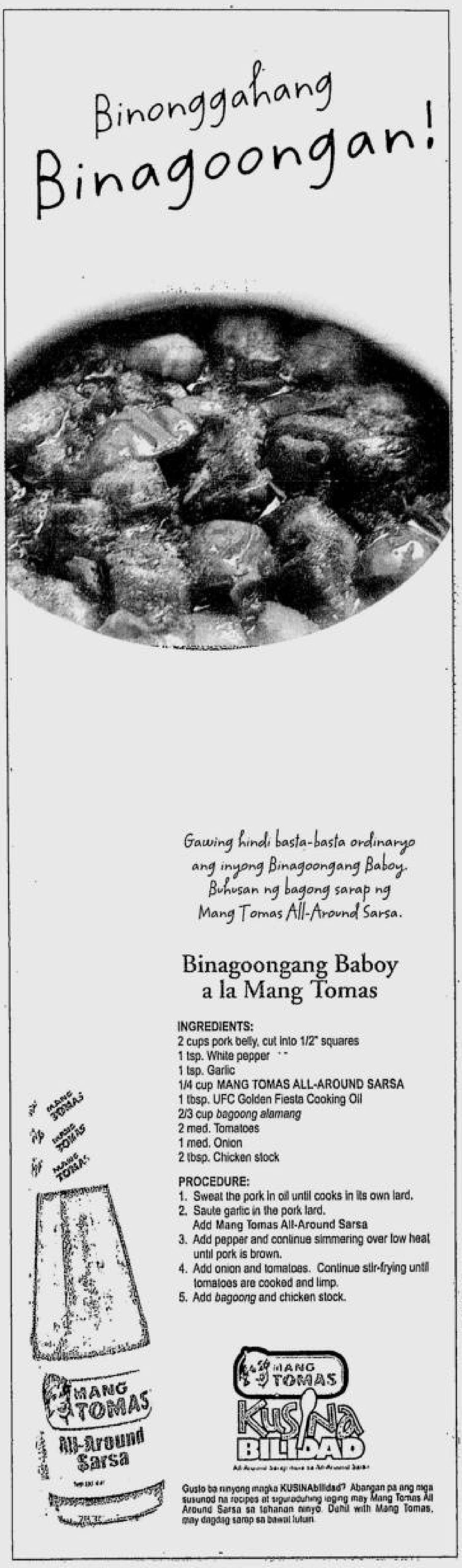


Binonggahang Binagoongan!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo ang inyong Binagoongang Baboy. Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Binagoongang Baboy a la Mang Tomas

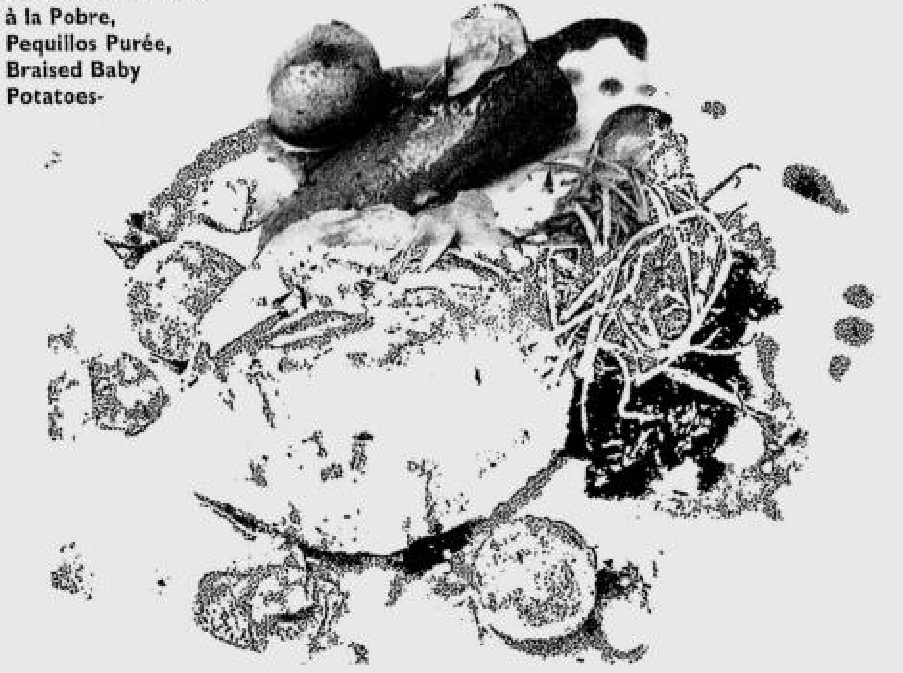
INGREDIENTS:
2 cups pork belly, cut into 1/2" squares
1 tsp. White pepper
1 tsp. Garlic
1/4 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
1 tbsp. UFC Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil
2/3 cup *bagoong alamang*
2 med. Tomatoes
1 med. Onion
2 tbsp. Chicken stock

PROCEDURE:
1. Sweat the pork in oil until cooks in its own lard.
2. Saute garlic in the pork lard. Add Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa
3. Add pepper and continue simmering over low heat until pork is brown.
4. Add onion and tomatoes. Continue stir-frying until tomatoes are cooked and limp.
5. Add *bagoong* and chicken stock.

Mang Tomas KUSINA BILIDAD

Gusto ba ninyong magka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing laging may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Dahil with Mang Tomas, may dagdag sarap sa bawat luto!

ROASTED Duck Liver with Adobo Rillette of Duck Breast on a French toasted Pandesal


ROASTED Sea Bass à la Pobre, Pequillos Purée, Braised Baby Potatoes-

French savoir faire and Pinoy flair in one

PRINCE ALBERT
CHEFS Reggie Aspiras and Cyrille Soenen

Paris and Manila duel to the culinary death at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie

By Anne A. Jambora

DAINTY dishes against immaculate white plates—a set-up so impeccably French. Yet at heart, there's the undeniable spirit of Filipino cuisine. This is simply the mother of all fusions.

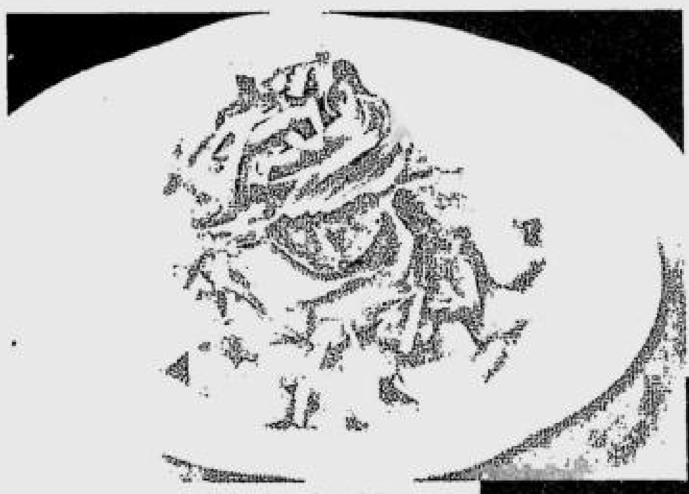
Ongoing until Sept. 25 at the Prince Albert Rotisserie (tel. 819-0645), Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, the "Paris/Manila Culinary Pleasures" presents the rare collaboration of two of Manila's finest chefs forging gastronomical magic in the kitchen. The celebration is in line with the Philippine-French Friendship Week by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the French Business Association in the Phils. (Le Club).

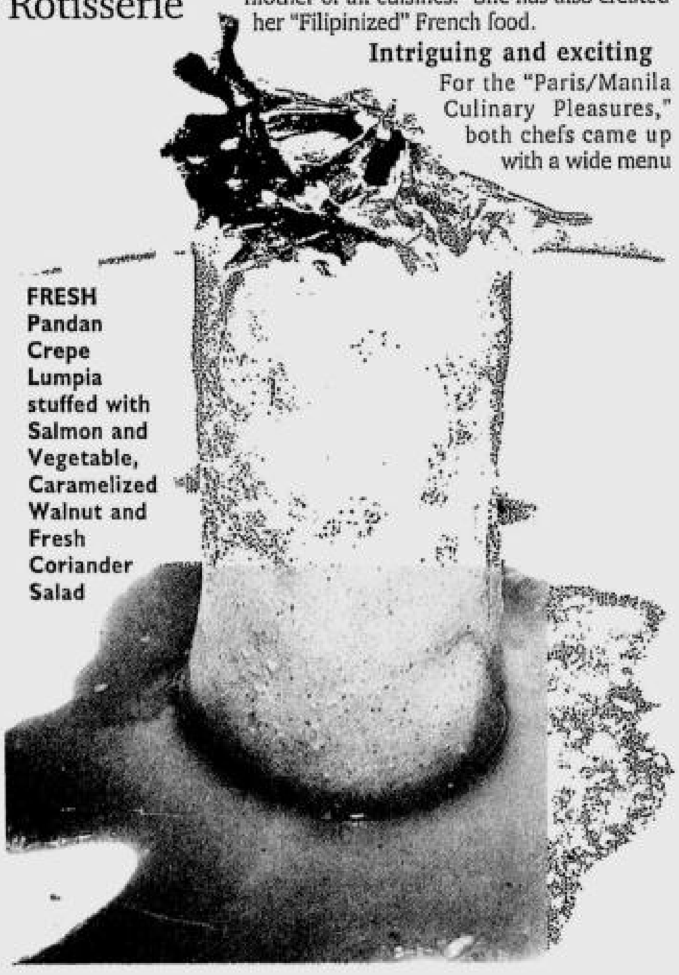
The East-meets-West ambience and the marriage of delicate flavors, textures and aromas—both subtle and distinct—truly make for an authentic fusion worth every calorie bite.

Small wonder then as both chefs share a passion for cooking and experimenting with different ingredients, foreign or familiar. Prince Albert's French chef Cyrille Soenen, who is married to a Filipina, has been whipping up his "French" version of the local fare for years now.

Chef de cuisine Reggie Aspiras, on the other hand, has always held a childlike fascination for French cuisine that she fondly calls "the mother of all cuisines." She has also created her "Filipinized" French food.

Intriguing and exciting


HONEY Raspberry Macerated and Rum-flambéed Native Fruit Minestrone topped with Kesong Puti Blanc-Manger, Watermelon Sherbet and Polenta Crisp


FRESH Pandan Crepe Lumpia stuffed with Salmon and Vegetable, Caramelized Walnut and Fresh Coriander Salad

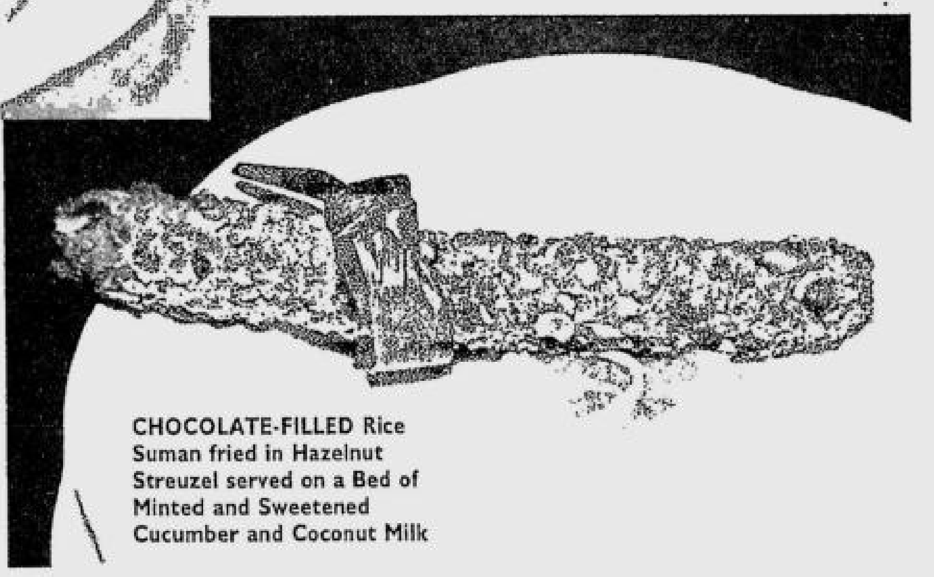
For the "Paris/Manila Culinary Pleasures," both chefs came up with a wide menu offering virtually anything—soup, cold and hot appetizers, fish, meat and cold and hot desserts. The entries are as intriguing as they are exciting to the palate, such as Cappuccino of Mongo Soup with Garlic Longanisa and Duck Confit, Smoked Gindara served with Tomatoes Bagoong Risotto, Malunggay Soufflé with Mango Velouté and Carabao Milk and Upo Chip.

The cold appetizer, Fresh Pandan Crepe Lumpia stuffed with Salmon and Vegetable, Caramelized Walnut and Fresh Coriander Salad, made use of finely crushed walnuts instead of the customary peanut for its sauce, and the special flour for the *lumpia* wrapper had hints of *pandan* flavor. This was followed by Royale of Smoked Prawns in Pomodoro Sinigang Soup, a glorious, tomato-based soup so true to the good old *sinigang* with smoked, yummy minced prawns.

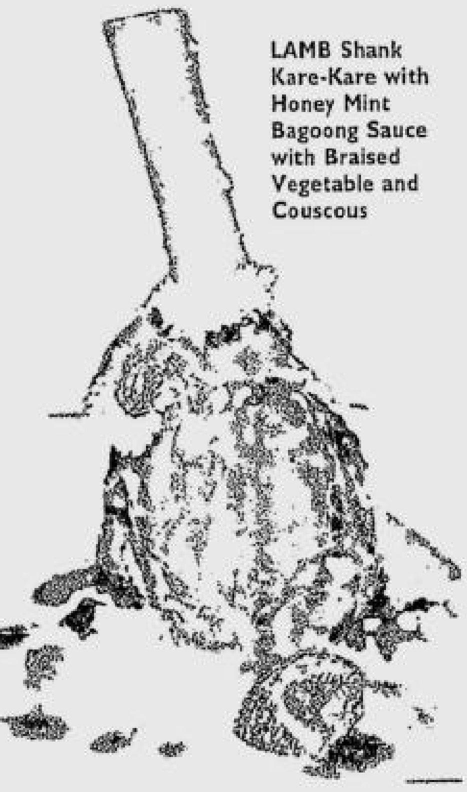
Roasted Duck Liver with Adobo Rillette of Duck Breast on a French Toasted Pandesal, the hot appetizer, had traces of chocolate in the *adobo* sauce. The rillette of duck breast rested on the French toast *pan de sal* on one side, with the heavenly roasted duck liver, still juicy and tender, on the other side.

The curious Lamb Shank Kare-Kare with Honey Mint Bagoong Sauce with Braised Vegetable and Couscous, despite the *bagoong* with subtle, almost unnoticeable hints of honey mint and the unmistakably *kare-kare*-based sauce, was decidedly too French—in taste and presentation. Using lamb shank instead of ox's tail—the *kare-kare*'s superstar—obviously took this local favorite at the wrong direction. Still, the lamb shank was tender to the bone, exactly the way a *kare-kare* would taste if lamb were used, and the dish makes quite a feast for the adventurous food connoisseur.

Preparation


CHOCOLATE-FILLED Rice Suman fried in Hazelnut Streuzel served on a Bed of Minted and Sweetened Cucumber and Coconut Milk

The meal ended with the interesting Chocolate-Filled Rice Suman fried in a Hazelnut Streuzel served on a Bed of Minted and Sweetened Cucumber with Coconut Milk Sauce. The long, soft chocolate was coated with crunchy rice *suman*, and was not cloyingly sweet. For the desserts, Aspiras worked with another Frenchman, Hotel Inter-Con Manila's executive pastry chef Philippe Agnese.


LAMB Shank Kare-Kare with Honey Mint Bagoong Sauce with Braised Vegetable and Couscous

All three chefs barely had a week to prepare the "Paris/Manila Culinary Pleasures" menu, but diners partaking of the magnificent meal would think otherwise. Aspiras admitted they are not resting on their laurels and are still constantly experimenting with ingredients.

Aspiras adds she always wants the Filipino cuisine to be recognized internationally, but the culprit, it seems, is its unappealing presentation. *Dinuguan*, for instance, is hardly appetizing a sight. For this reason she constantly experiments on ways to make Filipino food presentable, and the French-Filipino fusion allowed her to bring forth her ideas to life.

Soenen, who once worked with Claude Tayag on a French-Filipino fusion during the Philippine Centennial celebration, believes in keeping the natural flavor of the main ingredient despite the varied mix of ingredients. With this credo in mind, the fusion never deviated from the characteristic taste and flavor essential to each meal. Bon appétit!

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Delicious prose and delightful dishes at this year's Chefs on Parade

From page E1

In the Dim Sum Live Cooking Freestyle, teams of two persons, one of whom should be a Filipino cook, will be asked to prepare eight types of dim sums of which six types have to be savory-style (salted) and two types sweet. Two cooking methods must be used—steamed and fried (deep-fried or pan-fried).

Other competition categories are on-the-spot cake decoration, cocktail mixing, table decoration, flambé preparation, dessert preparation (pralines, creative cakes, plated freestyle and Filipino) and ice-carving.

Future of the industry

COP aims to give students a chance to show off their knowledge and creativity in the culinary arena. It is also a rich venue for exposure and learning for students and professionals alike. "COP fosters the exchange and sharing of ideas and information among the participants," says Segismundo. "The competition will pave the way to innovation and give recognition to Filipino professionals and students, who will be the future of the industry."

To offer respite from the competitions is a mini kitchen and dining hall that doubles as culinary book and magazine fair. The area is open to all COP attendees just outside the main hall of PTTC. There will also be free seminars on food styling and photography, panel discussions on food writing, wine seminars and cost control.

The food writing seminar will consist of a panel of writers who will talk about their experiences writing on food. Through those narratives, research techniques can be learned as well as the planning that goes into some food trips, including the happy accidents that lead to more and deeper knowledge about food.

"We are especially pleased at being at the helm of this year's COP. We promise to put on a good show for everyone. After all, there's no business like 'chow' business," says Segismundo.

For inquiries on COP 2002 schedules and activities, call HRAP secretariat at 527-5113/5045/9926.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

INTER CONTINENTAL
A TOSS from Jay Rufino, 2000 Battle of Champions winner and Philippine representative to the "Best Flair-tenders of the World" in Stuttgart, Germany

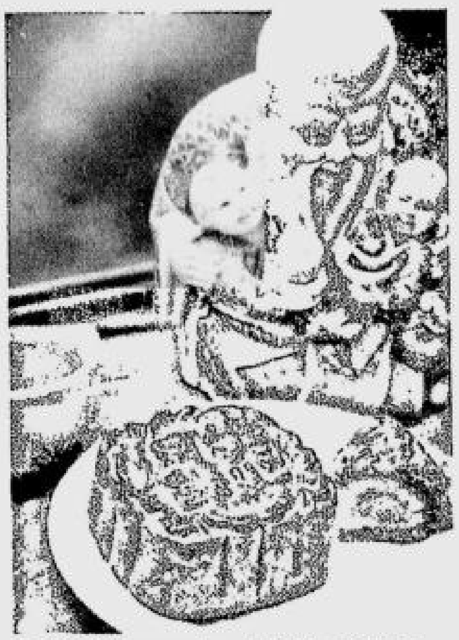
Chinese mark mid-autumn fest with mooncakes and lanterns

DINING-OUT

MOONCAKES and lanterns have been the enduring symbols of the Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar (falling on Sept. 21 this year). These symbols date back to the Yuen Dynasty in 13th century China.

China then was ruled by the oppressive Mongols under the legendary warrior-leader Genghis Khan. When the harvest moon was full, an uprising was conceived against the Mongol invaders. The people communicated the exact time and date of the uprising through concealed messages wrapped inside round cakes. Brightly lit lanterns signaled the start of the revolt, finally ending Mongol rule in China.

Have the best of Maxim's mooncakes at the Peking Garden and Jade Garden Chinese Restaurants, both at the Ayala Center, Makati City. It is available in white and yellow lotus seed pastes with double egg yolks. It comes in single, four- and six-piece attractive packages. For every purchase of 10 boxes, one box is free. Call Peking Garden at 817-9166 to -67 or Jade Garden at 892-2319 or 812-4548.



MAXIM'S mooncakes at Peking Garden

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Summer Palace offers traditional mooncakes filled with lotus seed paste and a salted egg yolk in the center, black bean and mixed nuts. Also offered are durian, plum, pineapple and green tea paste varieties. These delicacies are available for sale at the Mezzanine, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., and at the 2/L Shangri-La Mall, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Call 633-8888 local 2738 to 2739.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL offers exquisite mooncakes until Sept. 22. Its flavors include lotus with two eggs, black *monggo* and milk cream with egg. The selection comes in elegant boxes packed in singles, fours and eights. The mooncakes are available at the hotel lobby, Tin Hau, the Mandarin Deli. A 10-percent discount will be offered for a minimum order of six boxes. Makati residents who order a minimum of 15 boxes will benefit from a free delivery service. Call 750-8888.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA observes the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival with mooncakes at Shang Palace, and take-home boxes from Gourmet Corner and the mooncake booth located at the lobby, until Sept. 21. The mooncakes come in three flavors—Milk Cream, Red Bean and Sweet Lotus. Diners can avail of freshly made mooncakes with their favorite Chinese dishes at Shang Palace, or purchase them by the box at the mooncake booth located at the hotel lobby or at the Gourmet Corner. Call 840-0884.

THE TOWER Club, the country's premier by-invitation-only business and social club, is celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival with specially prepared authentic mooncakes. The cakes are available at The Taipan restaurant daily, or for advance orders until Sept. 21. The mooncakes come in regular and mini sizes with different fillings: traditional red bean, lotus paste and milk cream. Call 885-7085/7091.

CASA ARMAS Tapas Bar y Restaurante is hosting "A Spanish Culinary Journey." The promo explores the country's rich culinary landscape with a series of nine monthly collector's postcards. The postcards, which highlight a particular Spanish province and dish, come with special treats. Casa Armas serves lunch and dinner from Monday to Sunday. Call 897-3605/3542 (Makati) and 687-3370/3665 (Ortigas).

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffeeshop presents an Italian Food Festival until Sept. 15. Indulge in Braised Veal Shank with Tomato Sauce, Baked Trout with Mushroom, Chicken Cacciatore with Black Olives and Anchovies Sauce, Cannelloni Stuffed with Spinach, Tomato, Cabbage with Bacon and Potatoes. There's pizza for the day and a pasta table featuring a variety of noodles. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES presents an International Food Festival at the Raphael Café-Restaurant until Sept.15. Enjoy Stuffed Porkloin with Dijon Mustard, Pan Fried Norwegian Salmon with Dill Butter, Chicken Barbecue Skewer, Stir Fried Beef with Sate Sauce and Cashew Nuts, and an assortment of vegetables, carrot, sayote, zucchini. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

PEKING GARDEN is offering its Give Me 5 Lunch Deal promo. A minimum of five persons can have lunch at P250+ per head, and the fifth person dines for free. Group lunch patrons get to choose one soup (hot and sour soup, sweet corn with chicken soup or bean curd with fish potage), three main dishes (choose from cold chicken in rice wine sauce, sea blubber, marinated spiced beef, deep fried pepper, corn prawns, fish fillet with sweet and sour sauce, sizzling beef with spring onions, fried boneless chicken with lemon sauce, sweet and sour pork, braised bean curd with minced beef in pungent sauce, or eggplant with hot garlic sauce), plain rice and choice of one dessert (almond jelly, black *gulaman* or coconut custard). Peking Garden is on the 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati, with tel. 817-9066 to -67.

MAKATI Shangri-La's mooncakes come in three delightful flavors—Milk Cream, Read Bean and Sweet Lotus.

Japanese restaurant marks 2nd year with new appetizers

FOR THE PAST two years, Ebisu Grill on Jupiter Street in Makati has been serving a fusion of two dining phenomena unique to Japan—*yakiniku* and *izakaya*.

A *yakiniku* restaurant specializes in grilled meat cooked on a griddle in the middle of your table. You may handle the cooking duties yourself or have the staff grill your beef, lamb, chicken, prawns, calamari or scallops before your very eyes. At Ebisu, powerful exhaust fans are located underneath the grills to extract cooking smells into ducts ingeniously concealed inside floor-to-ceiling pillars and behind walls.

Izakaya bars are tavern-style hideaways patronized by ordinary Japanese workers and students when they wish to unwind while savoring its celebrated bar chows, tapas style. At Ebisu, you can enjoy a memorable Japanese meal or chill out with friends over drinks and reasonably priced appetizers.

To celebrate its second anniversary this month, Ebisu Grill adds 10 new dishes to its list of appetizers. Try Uni (sea urchin), Fried Sushi, Tekka Maki, Curry Furai (curry-flavored potatoes) or Crab Puffs (crab with cream cheese wrapped in crispy wrapper).

Also sample Edamame Garlic (soybeans sautéed in garlic-soy sauce), Tomato Salad (fresh tomato with soy-vinegar dressing), Yakitori (Japanese chicken barbecue), Sautéed Mushrooms (shiitake mushrooms sautéed in garlic-butter) and Ebi Furai (breaded shrimps). Ebisu's best-selling appetizers—Ebisu Roll, Gyoza, Age-Tofu, Tsukune and Yasai Itame—are still very much around.

In Japanese, Ebisu is one of the seven deities of good fortune. Nibble on Ebisu Grill's delights and experience food that even the gods would consider divine.

Located at 146-B Jupiter St., Makati (tel. 890-8014/7992 or 896-6475), Ebisu also caters for cocktail parties and events.

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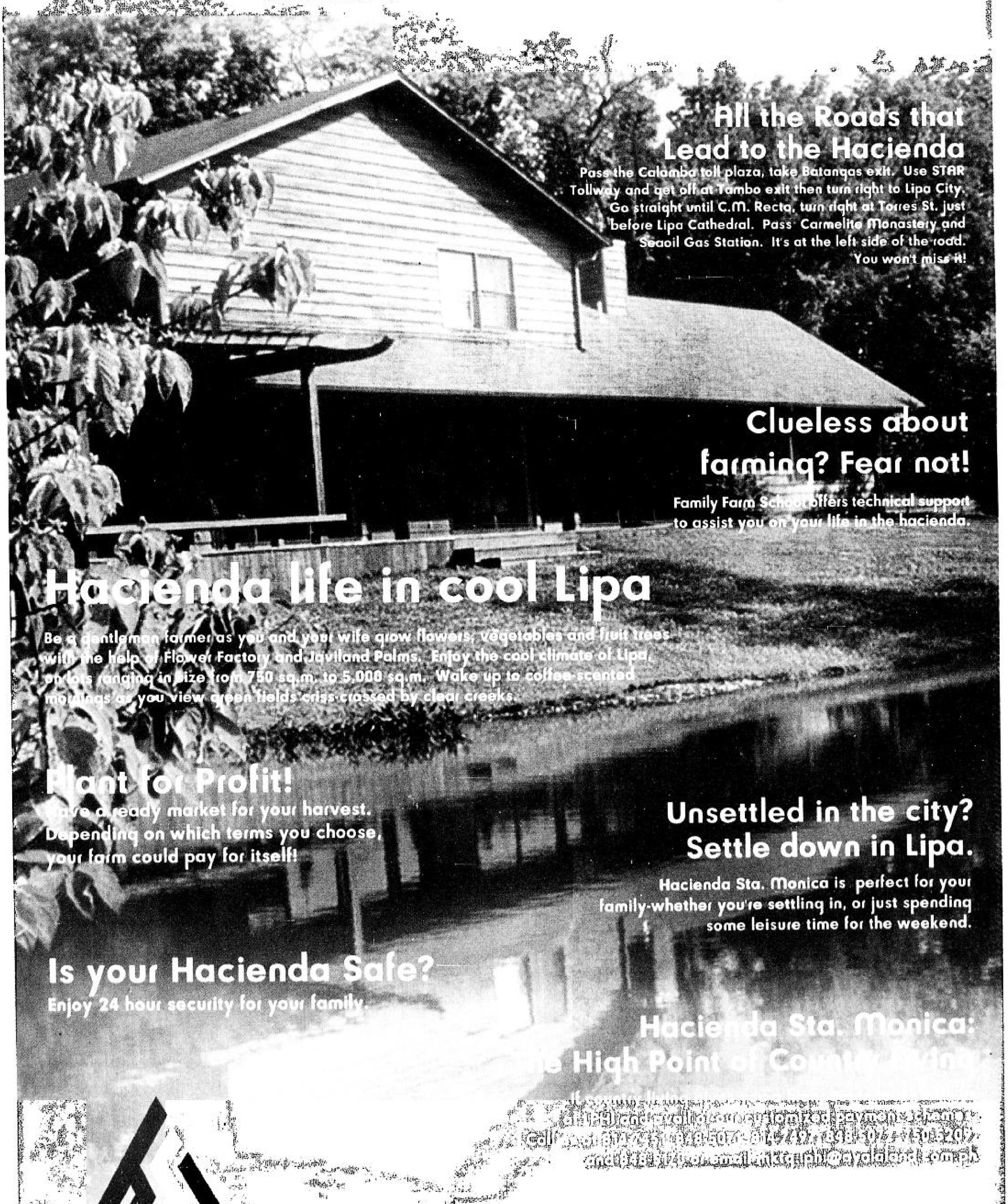
Vol.1 2002 Edition



All the Roads that Lead to the Hacienda

Pass the Calamba toll plaza, take Batangas exit. Use STAR Tollway and get off at Tambo exit then turn right to Lipa City. Go straight until C.M. Recto, turn right at Torres St. just before Lipa Cathedral. Pass Carmelite Monastery and Seaoil Gas Station. It's at the left side of the road. You won't miss it!

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